



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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CIS Defense Ministers Council Amend Functions

LD0403205494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1403 GMT 4 Mar 94

[From the "Military Courier" program]

[Text] The functions of the CIS Defense Ministers' Council have been changed. It now becomes the main consultative body on military matters of the Collective Security Council.

[Aleksandr Ostrovskiy] The session of CIS defense ministers considered the formulation of the Council and the organization of its activities. It is proposed that it consist of 250 individuals, half of whom will be from the Russian Defense Ministry. The main form for the work of the Defense Ministers' Council will be its sessions, which will be held at least once every three months.

The session also considered one of the main issues—the Tajik-Afghan border—since the armed provocations against Russian border guards have taken on the form of continual combat actions. Since the start of the year alone there have been intensive rocket bombardments on 21 occasions. [Video shows brief interviews]

[Tajik Defense Minister A. Shishlyannikov] There are continual incidents, including attempts to break through and attempted armed provocations, but at least for the present they are all being successfully repelled.

[Russian Deputy Defense Minister B. Gromov] I think that under no circumstance should we forget our experience within the Warsaw Pact. You rightly mentioned the matter of interaction and other things and ensuring military-technical cooperation. That is to say, it applies to all aspects.

[L.Ivashov, secretary of the CIS Defense Ministers' Council] At present the discussion has been solely about the CIS coordinating bodies, namely the Defense Ministers' Council and the headquarters for the coordination of military cooperation. Naturally a whole range of other issues will also be considered.

[Ostrovskiy] The first step has been taken. What will the second step be?

[Ivashov] As a second step we hope that Gennadiy Ivanovich Shabannikov, general secretary of the Collective Security Council, will present the Collective Security Council with specific proposals for formulating a model for collective security, and forming the structures of the treaty member states, and some kind of plan for the stage by stage creation of the system.

CIS Integration Seen Beneficial to Russian Inhabitants

LD0403170994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The strengthening of the CIS will be to a great extent defining the fate of millions of Russians living in the Commonwealth countries. Only integration within the

framework of the Commonwealth can assuage the controversy around the problems of the Russian-speaking population in the "near abroad", the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's department for CIS affairs Leonid Drachevskiy stated in Moscow on Friday. He spoke at a seminar on the problems of the Russian-speaking population in "the near abroad" organized by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

In the diplomat's opinion, "it is necessary to accelerate the implementation of the treaty on economic union." "Unfortunately, many of the agreements attached to that treaty are not working. The problem is that they were concluded sporadically. As a result, their implementation was not carried out in stages as required", he noted.

Drachevskiy also spoke in favor of "intensifying" work on the creation of a collective security system. "Obviously, the borders within the Commonwealth should be transparent. Only outer frontiers of the CIS should be thoroughly guarded. So far we have signed such agreements only with Central Asian republics," he said.

Drachevskiy particularly noted that negotiations with the CIS countries on dual citizenship "regularly get into impasse." "Many experts justifiably believe that in our conditions dual citizenship generates more questions, than answers. Obviously, it would be reasonable to consider some intermediate option envisaging "special regime of citizenship" within the CIS. This means that a citizen of one state would not be considered as a foreigner on the territory of other state, but would have all rights with small "exception", for example, the right to vote", the diplomat pointed out.

He expressed confidence that these steps would "have a positive influence on the plight of Russians living in the near abroad."

The strategic task of Russia is "to keep all Euroasian territory of the former Soviet Union if not under control, then under strong influence." This opinion was expressed by a representative of the association for ties with foreign compatriots "Russkiye Zoriy" Gennadiy Mozhayev who spoke at the seminar.

In his view, the 21st century will be come "a century of fighting for energy sources." "That is why the preservation of its influence on the territory of the former Soviet Union is a vitally important task for Russia. From this point of view it's an advantage for us to have a big number of Russians in the near abroad", he said.

Mozhayev also spoke in favor of setting up an All-Russian state foundation on support of Russians living in the CIS countries.

Russia's senior adviser at the United Nations in New York Aleksandr Denisov, a spokesman for the Congress of Russian Communities has said that "not only CIS but the Baltic states are a zone of special political, military and strategic interests for Russia."

There can be no talk "about any migration of ethnic Russians from CIS countries. The Russians must stay wherever they are historically strong and should be only economically supported", Denisov said.

In his opinion, the emerging Russian business is "a rather effective means for Russia to gain a foothold in CIS states." As an example, Denisov cited the fact that about 80% of entrepreneurs in Lithuania are Russians. "In other countries, the situation is similar. This potential need to be tapped", he stressed.

Whatever happens, Russia must not allow "politicizing of its communities in the CIS." Such an opinion has been voiced by Russia's ex Foreign Minister Shelov-Kovedyayev, a co-chairman of "The Russian Club", an international non-governmental organization.

"To employ these people for gaining influence as a "fifth column" is not only corrupt and inhumane but dangerous for them, as we know from world history", he stressed.

According to Shelov-Kovedyayev, one of the main problems, facing the Russians in the CIS is the economic one. So, they should be supported in every way to forestall their massive migration. That would be much cheaper than to accommodate millions of resettlers in Russia.

Special Status for Ethnic Russians Debated

MK0503121094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 1

[Liana Minasyan report in the "Diaspora" column: "Russians in the CIS Are Not Foreigners. Russian Federation Foreign Affairs Ministry Has Held a Conference on Problems of the Commonwealth's Russophones"]

[Text] The range of opinions (including in Russia's state structures) on how Moscow's relations with the newly independent neighboring countries should develop is very wide—from isolationism to unification at any price. But in this context the problem of "ethnic Russians" in the CIS countries is perennial. In an attempt to define their legal status, the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry has proposed a draft bilateral treaty between the Russian Federation and a corresponding state related to "Russian Federation citizens permanently residing on its territory." The treaty proposes that a status be established for them close to the legal status of that country's citizens in as much as refers to political, economic, and other rights. With very few exceptions—for instance the right to elect and be elected to supreme bodies of state power, participate in referendums, and hold diplomatic or state security posts—the "permanent residents" have equal rights with the country's citizens and the restrictions imposed on foreigners do not extend to them.

The appearance of such a draft, in the opinion of Moscow diplomats, is due to the fact that a different status—say, dual citizenship—creates more problems than it solves. At the same time the special citizenship status proposed by them is not based on ethnic principles, but enables anyone having any even very remote roots in Russia to register his

citizenship according to a simplified procedure. In particular this setup is designed to remove certain problems for re-emigres from the CIS countries who are often treated in Russia as foreigners. Without recognizing dual citizenship juridically, the Russian authorities may do this de facto.

True, this agreement, speakers at the conference noted, leaves out people who move from the "inner neighboring states" [vnutrenneye zarubezhye], in particular Russians who leave the Russian Federation's ethnic republics.

One of the acute issues is still the character of influence on Russian communities in the newly independent states by numerous public organizations created in Russia to maintain links with compatriots abroad. To politicize the public life of the Russian diaspora and to turn the community into a conduit of Russian policy abroad would mean, as was stressed at the conference, to subject it to additional danger, leading to extreme situations—"knowing some traditions that can reemerge in certain regions."

At present, social problems in Russia for compatriots from the neighboring states have been alleviated somewhat after the free circulation of foreign exchange, which they often had to pay for their presence in their "historical motherland," was banned here. It was also proposed to allow them to enroll in Russian colleges and universities on a general competitive basis and to promote the dissemination of Russian newspapers and books in the Commonwealth countries. At the interstate level, that the extension of credits to CIS countries be made contingent on which proportion thereof will be used to support and promote the Russian diaspora, also taking into account the number of Russians leaving the country.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 5 Mar

LD0503072994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0548 GMT 5 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

Moscow March 5 (ITAR-TASS)—Moscow leading newspapers concentrate on the speeches by President Boris Yeltsin and Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin at the government's enlarged meeting on Friday.

The ROSSIISKIE VESTI Newspaper features a commentary on these speeches headlined "to find reasonable correlation between speed of reforms and real social price for it." "Let us put it bluntly: the government does not suggest any backtrack from the previous policy," the newspaper stresses.

"The strategic course for creating an effective market economy must be preserved, but the task of cutting social price for reforms moves to the foreground at this stage." At the same time, the newspaper criticizes the federal budget of the Finance Ministry, which was approved, in principle, by a meeting of the government, expressing doubts at "feasibility" of some of its indicators for 1994.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper writes in the same vein, noting that the budget was adopted with "a

black hole." The newspaper's commentary claims that "the pumping of worthless money into the economy will not check the slump (of production). It will only destroy the consumer market which has just emerged. Then, there will be the only way out—a state of emergency. This way of developments is not the worst one."

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper carries a summary of the above speeches under the headline "President's State of the Nation Message to Russian Parliament is Platform for Accord."

It singles out Yeltsin's words that, following the message, "long-awaited outlines of a general approach to tackling economic problems" start emerging and that consequences of the political amnesty adopted by the lower chamber of parliament on ringleaders of abortive coups in August 1991 and October 1993 are fraught with the danger of new confrontation.

A commentary on the amnesty written by A. Golts and published by the same newspaper claims that the release of the Lefortovo prison inmates "is no threat to political stability."

Giving a summary of the president's and premier's speeches, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper stresses that "Viktor Chernomyrdin's report absorbed the best economic goals."

But it is not quite clear, the newspaper adds, whether the present government can realise them. A series of extracts from Yeltsin's speech published by the newspaper starts with the following words: "I fully understand how controversial the decision (on political amnesty) taken by the lower house is and how hastily it was carried out."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA (opposition newspaper) gives a digest of the report on social and economic situation in

Russia compiled by the Russian Statistics Committee, which was circulated in the Kremlin among participants in the enlarged meeting of the government. Its data on the continued slump of the Gross Domestic Product in Russia are described with one word "avalanche."

The PRAVDA newspaper carries an interview with Radovan Karadzic, leader of Bosnian Serbs and vice-president of the Union of Serb Writers.

Russia's initiative to settle the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he says, "helped to overcome confrontation with NATO, and Russia, I believe, entered, thanks to this, the world political arena as an independent force which should be reckoned with." "We experience an unusual enthusiasm and gratitude for what Russia has done for Serbia," he added.

The trud newspaper features the last part of the memoirs by former commander of the Soviet Navy Nikolai Kuznetsov who personally knew Stalin, under the headline "Stalin's Death."

The PRAVDA newspaper prints a photograph from the front cover of the West German Magazine SPIEGEL with the inscription "Stalin's Second Death," depicting him together with Vladimir Lenin inside the mausoleum (magazine's correspondent used a hidden photo camera to take a snapshot).

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with Deputy Prosecutor-General Vladimir Kravtsov, saying that he "has no doubts about guilt of Khasbulatov, Rutskoy and their aides."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA devotes an article to the world's first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin who would have turned 60 on March 9.

Russian Intelligence Agent To Return From U.S.*LD0503184194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1456 GMT 5 Mar 94*

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Aleksandr Lysenko, the staff member of the Russian embassy in Washington who, by agreement with the Russian External Intelligence Service (EIS) and the CIS, was introduced in Washington as the official representative of the Russian Intelligence, is returning to Moscow on Saturday [5 March]. Head of the EIS's Press Bureau Yuriy Kobaladze told INTERFAX.

As we reported earlier, Aleksandr Lysenko arrived in the U.S. last summer and was declared persona non-grata in connection with the Ames case. Aldrich Ames and his wife Maria were accused of spying in favor of the Kremlin for many years.

To quote Kobaladze, Moscow's decision to expel high-ranking American diplomat James Morris, officially introduced as the CIS resident, "is a matter of mutual accounts, rather than a return measure."

Kobaladze expressed hope that the damage caused by Lysenko's and Morris's exile would be minimized. "We reckon on this," he said.

Asked if Lysenko's successor would be officially introduced in Washington as the Russian resident, Kobaladze said that the agreement on this was still in force. "However, details will be discussed with Americans, on whom very much would depend. We have channels for such a discussion," he said.

Speaking about Lysenko's career, Kobaladze said that some of the American media's reports about Lysenko's further exile to Siberia were ungrounded. "His experience and knowledge can be used by the EIS where he will continue to work," he said.

Outcry Over 'Circumstantial' Ames Case Seen Abating*PM0703143394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 2*

[Ravil Mustafin report: "That 'Morning After Feeling' in the Ames Case"]

[Text] Albeit with difficulty, it seems that sober voices in America are making themselves heard above the frenzied cries raised on the subject of the Ames case. Attention should be focused primarily on what is happening in the CIA, not on Russia—this, in rough terms, is the leitmotiv of statements heard in recent days from a number of American politicians and intelligence experts. Ames should have been exposed during lie detector tests, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER writes. Apparently Ames underwent two such tests—in 1986 and in 1991—during which he was asked whether he had unauthorized contacts with foreign intelligence services.

It is not impossible that the slight sobering of public opinion in the United States is connected with the fragility of the accusation. In the opinion of the influential WALL STREET JOURNAL, it will be quite difficult to reach a guilty verdict insofar as all evidence of the Ames' guilt is circumstantial. The only weak link in the Ames' defense is their financial position, William Cummings, legal adviser for the accused, believes.

However, even here things are not so bad for the Ames. For instance, the house which cost them over \$500,000 was bought back in 1987. Our experts consider it unlikely that Ames could have obtained such a sum at that time, even taking account of the value of the information he may have obtained and sold. Provided, of course, it was indeed in 1985 that he started to work for a foreign intelligence service, and not before.

A highly original version was put forward by the American newspaper DAILY NEWS. Its journalists concluded that Ames was an agent for the Cuban intelligence services since his time in Mexico at the start of the 1980's coincided with a series of failures by American agents working against Havana.

Intelligence Official Views Ames Case*LD0703161394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1445 GMT 6 Mar 94*

[Studio interview with Tatyana Viktorovna Samolis, press secretary of Russian Foreign Intelligence Service director, by Vitaliy Gan; date not given; from the "Panorama" program—recorded]

[Text] [Gan] The tension in Russian-American relations caused by the arrest of the CIA staff member Aldrich Ames and his wife on charges of spying for Russia is intensifying. The sides have already exchanged compliments in the form of a reciprocal expulsion of diplomats or those who were considered to be diplomats. The turn of events is a rather a surprising one. Bill [Clinton] and Boris [Yeltsin] had pledged friendship in the eyes of the world and now here we are faced with this embarrassment. On the American side the fuss is due to many factors: the striving to block the establishment of closer political and economic ties with Russia, the opposition to President Clinton, the dissatisfaction with our efforts to state once again, as it should be, our position and our place in the world in spite of our internal squabbles. It is also due to the cherished desire to put a squeeze on the Russian intelligence service.

Tatyana Viktorovna Samolis, Russian foreign intelligence service director's press secretary, is our guest today.

Tatyana Viktorovna, the fuss around the arrest of CIA staff member Ames and his wife on charges of spying against [as heard] Russia is not subsiding. One gets the impression that by carrying out reciprocal expulsions the sides have revived the eye-for-an-eye policy. How do you see the situation?

[Samolis] First of all, I would not define the situation that has emerged as fitting the eye-for-an-eye scheme. To a

certain extent we have here a different variant. Why? Primarily because we consider the expulsion of Aleksandr Iosifovich Lisenko as a discourteous act. This was, most likely, a political step and the Russian side was forced to undertake a reciprocal measure, first and foremost, because the expulsion of Lisenko was carried out not out of any operational consideration. Then, whoever Ames really was, Lisenko had had no contacts with him whatsoever. All this situation is to a certain extent burdensome to both the sides. The Russian side would not like to drag out this conflict. On the contrary, we would like, by using all means, to strive to return to the cooperation which has already begun between the Russian and U.S. intelligence services, because the interests that coincide between our states are relatively sufficient in number and the sphere in which we could cooperate is broad. The world is a complex place and very dangerous and there are problems that can be resolved only by applying joint efforts.

[Gan] You know that, according to some information, Ames's main aim was in preventing the CIA doing harm to Russia and Russia's agents; in other words, to ensure our security but not to sell and disclose U.S. secrets. Is this so?

[Samolis] First, I would like to say that the Russian intelligence service is not going to comment on the Ames case. This is a practice adopted by all the intelligence services. This we should make clear to ourselves.

As for your question, on the whole, you are right, to some extent. One could possibly agree with you here. In any case, if one analyzes the U.S. press, a sufficient number of suppositions on this matter have been expressed, including one which can be expressed in the following way: to Ames it was most likely not a operation to penetrate U.S. secrets but a counterintelligence measure, a protective measure and a defensive measure for the country which he was acquiring the secrets for. Once again, this is without commenting on the situation itself. The court will decide everything.

[Gan] There is another question. It is well known that the CIA is actively involved in intelligence activities on the territory of Russia. The other day, CIA Director James Woolsey, on the whole, openly recognized this. It looks like everybody is engaged in this kind of game. One could then ask why is it necessary, generally speaking, to aggravate and poison the relations between our countries which are already complicated?

[Samolis] Yes, you are right here. This was said by the CIA director and not only by him. Many senior officials had made such remarks, including the chairmen of the committees for intelligence services of the Senate and the House of Representatives. On the whole, many people look at this in an absolutely normal way. What can be done about this if the world is made like that? The world is not a safe place and it is quite natural that states cannot do without such a function as the intelligence services.

I would also like to speak about some small trivial things. We would not like the Russian proverb that says what the priest is allowed the deacon is not, to be applied to Russia.

If the world is a complicated place and is not safe for the United States, the same would be right for Russia and for another country; am I right?

[Gan] Yes, of course.

[Samolis] Russia has also its own national interests, no matter how strange this might seem. It will continue to defend them by also using intelligence methods.

Second, I would to remind you of or maybe acquaint you for the first time with one of the thoughts of Richard Helms, a former CIA director, who once cleverly and ironically remarked that they very well knew that their friends were watching them. The only thing they could blame their spies and foreign spies for was for allowing themselves to be caught redhanded.

By the way, speaking about the Ames case, I am obliged to remind us all that he was not caught redhanded. But I said this in connection with another matter: carrying out intelligence activities in the present civilized world is, in no way at all, an obstacle to upholding friendly and even allied relations between states. That is why I do not quite understand all the noise around this case and the attempt to raise this problem from a solely professional level to a supreme political level.

FCS Head: Post-Ames Probes, Arrests 'Conjecture'

LD0403210294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1995
GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The new director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS), Sergey Stepashin, has described the speculations that FCS was carrying out an internal investigation or made any arrests in the wake of the Ames case as a conjecture. In an interview with INTERFAX today, he said that apart from the neighbors' suppositions of their disproportional expenses, the Americans have no other evidence to prove that the Ames case worked for the Russian intelligence.

Stepashin said he had met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin shortly before he was appointed as FCS director, but he declined to give any comments on it.

Asked whether the Russian special service will be reformed once again, Stepashin said it was "quite a natural thing" under the conditions when society is going through dramatic changes. At the same time, he pointed out that the president's bid to carry out no more purges in counterintelligence officers in order not to squander the potential was strictly observed during the present reformation.

Stepashin hoped that FCS will manage to retain its high-class professionals, and that they will efficiently fulfil their tasks.

According to the FCS director, Russia needs a stronger special service capable of ensuring the state's security.

Official Downplays Value of Detained 'British Spy'

MK0503115094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 20

[Mikhail Lashch report: "British Spy in Russia Scandal. Spy Operated Since 1986."

[Text] Your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent learned yesterday from sources close to Russian counter-intelligence some details about the Russian SMM defense concern employee, arrested by the counterintelligence organs, who had passed on secret military information to British special services. It became known in particular that the man suspected of spying since 1986 is Vadim Sintsov, director of an SMM administration. According to information received by KOMMERSANT-DAILY, he was detained with his partner, Mikhaylov.

KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned that the detained man, Vadim Sintsov, used to be in charge of an administration in the USSR Defense Industry Ministry. Following the collapse of the ministries catering to defense, he joined the SMM concern as head of one of the directorates for foreign economic cooperation. His former colleagues in the concern characterize Sintsov as an extremely sociable staffer. Besides, according to one of his former colleagues, Sintsov was fluent in English, knew computer technology well, and was brilliantly conversant in the ways of the Russian armaments and military hardware market.

Yevgeniy Pershikov, SMM deputy president, in a talk with your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent confirmed that the English spy detained by the counterintelligence service had worked for the concern, and was in charge of a directorate for foreign economic relations. He stressed, however, that the SMM concern does not possess any classified materials: "We have not had classified materials for two years; even our first departments have been closed down." Pershikov is confident that even if Sintsov was indeed engaged in spying, he was doing so outside the concern.

That the detained man is precisely Vadim Sintsov was neither confirmed nor denied to your correspondent at the Federal Counterintelligence Service press center. A press service officer explained that the English spy case is being investigated by the military procuracy.

Your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent turned to the head of a directorate of the Security Council apparatus to determine the size of the damage and the nature of the information that Vadim Sintsov had passed on to British special services. The official said that, to his knowledge, Sintsov showed the greatest activity in 1991 to 1993. However, he said, owing to the fact that no important research and development projects were undertaken by the defense sector at that time, British special services used him in secondary roles: military information coming to English intelligence services was checked up on through him. Besides, Sintsov had no access to either materials on the main defense development projects or to the secret provisions of the military doctrine concerning its military-technology section. "The value of information Sintsov

passed on to British special services has been artificially overestimated. At any rate, the comparison to Penkovskiy and Tolkachev is exaggeration," the Security Council apparatus official thinks.

'Several Dozen' Warheads Moved From Ukraine

PM0703101794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 94 p 1

[Viktor Litovkin report: "Ukrainian Nuclear Disarmament Has Begun"]

[Text] An event of which there has so long been so much talk in the capitals of three major countries—Washington, Moscow, and Kiev—has finally happened: Russia and Ukraine have begun implementing the trilateral accord signed in the Kremlin 14 January on the partial transfer of the nuclear warheads of strategic missiles and of strategic bomber cruise missiles to Russian territory for subsequent dismantling and salvaging.

They are not revealing the details of the current operation, its schedule, or the size of the transfers, citing the secrecy and security requirements stipulated in a special document. But independent experts maintain that the secret [liternyy] trains taking the nuclear warheads out of Ukraine must be taking several dozen warheads previously removed from SS-19 liquid-fuel strategic missiles of the 43d Missile Army's 46th Missile Division, which are in a pre-malfunction state.

Special cars are bringing elements for Ukrainian nuclear electric power stations to meet these trains.

According to information at the disposal of the editorial office, at least some 200 strategic missile warheads are to be removed from Ukrainian territory to Russian plants during the 10 months of this year. In return, Ukraine will receive by way of compensation, as a first real step, 100 tonnes of slightly enriched uranium in the form of those very fuel assemblies for its nuclear power industry.

It is no coincidence that these March days have been selected to start the removal of nuclear warheads from Ukrainian territory. At the time the secret train crossed Russia's border with specific weapons and headed deep into the country, toward the plants where they will be dismantled and salvaged, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk was meeting with Bill Clinton. He had something to report in Washington.

The trilateral Moscow accord is being fulfilled. This attests that Kiev and Moscow are serious about the obligations they have assumed.

Gas Supplies to Ukraine Cut Off Pending 10 Mar Talks

LD0703113894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1002 GMT 7 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Mar—The management of the Russian joint-stock company Gazprom has suspended cuts in natural gas supplies to Ukraine pending the start of negotiations on 10 March, Sergey Tyukin, deputy head of Gazprom's central control directorate, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

This means that until the the issue of paying off debts for fuel supplied from Russia is resolved conclusively, Ukrainian consumers will be receiving reduced amounts of gas. At present, consumers in Ukraine are getting about 100 million cubic meters of gas a day from Russia.

Sergey Tyukin also said that daily supplies of gas to Belarus have been increased by 10 million cubic meters. After gas supplies from Russia were reduced by 20 million cubic meters, Belarus consumers promptly managed to start paying off their debts and transferred 30 billion rubles into Gazprom's account.

In Sergey Tyukin's words, despite the difficult situation Gazprom has found itself in, it managed to maintain virtually the full volume of gas supplies to its foreign partners. The exports of Russian gas fell by just 5 percent over the past few days.

Belarus Guarantees Russian Gas Supplies to West

LD0403214494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1159 GMT 4 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Mar—Belarus has guaranteed that the transit of export supplies of gas from Russia to foreign countries across its territory will continue, despite the fact that Russia has reduced its supply of gas to Belarus. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this today from Vladimir Podmarkov, the chief engineer of the Gasprom Company Central Control Directorate. According to Russia's Gazprom, even after the cut the amount of natural gas being delivered to Belarus is enough to meet all the requirements of the public utilities system.

Ukraine Accused of Siphoning Gas

LD0503093494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0907 GMT 5 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow March 5 TASS—Western consumers of Russian natural gas may remain without the fuel if Ukraine continues to pump out gas from transit pipelines going to Europe via its territory, TASS learned on Saturday [5 March] from experts of the "Gazprom" concern, the major Russian natural gas supplier.

The pressure dropped by five atmospheres on Tuesday afternoon in transit gas pipelines near Ukrainian border with European countries and experts are sure that there is only one reason for that—Ukraine is pumping out fuel after Russia began cutting down supplies to it demanding that debts for previous deliveries be paid.

If the pressure falls by other five atmospheres, West European consumers may remain without the Russian fuel, "Gazprom" experts warned and added that in this case they would have to decrease gas supplies for purely technological reasons.

The experts are sure that gas supplies will be further decreased already today also because no debt payments had been yet received from Ukraine.

Today Russia continued natural gas supplies to Ukraine and Belarus in reduced volumes, but refrained from further cuts so far, according to chief engineer of the main dispatcher department of "Gazprom" Vladimir Podmarkov.

Minister Says State Role in Energy Supply Exaggerated

LD0703121494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1058 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Russia's Minister for Fuel and Energy Yuriy Shafaranik told Interfax in an exclusive interview that the role of the state was overly exaggerated in the sphere of energy supplies. He believes that this is a matter of relations between the suppliers and consumers not only in Russia but also abroad, including the CIS countries.

He categorically denied the assertions that Russia was manipulating difficulties in this sphere in order to save energy for its own needs.

We must get used to the idea that according to the market laws energy supplies must be regulated during talks between the supplier and consumer. The state, including the Ministry for Energy and Fuel, must not be involved in tackling such problems.

Speaking about cuts in Russian gas exports to Ukraine, he emphasized that they had been caused by the Ukrainian consumers' debts, not by problems in Russian-Ukrainian relations.

Churkin 'Insulted' by Response to Tuzla Agreement

LD0403205694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Russia's deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin, Russian president's special envoy, declared to INTERFAX on Friday [4 March] that he "is concerned and even insulted" by negative reaction of several Moslem leaders in Bosnia with respect to the agreement to open the airport in Tuzla reached with the leader of the Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic several days ago in Moscow.

"This move will primarily correspond to the interests of the Moslem population," he pointed out.

Churkin expressed a supposition that several leaders of the Bosnian Moslems probably thought "that the airport in Tuzla will be used for military transportations. These are people who wish war but not peace."

At the same time Churkin expressed the opinion that "most authoritative and serious Moslem leaders want

peace and this is the reason of the visit of the premier of the Bosnian government Haris Silaidzic to Moscow on Monday. [no end quotes, as received]

He underlined that Russia intends to look for a common language with the Moslem leadership. It will try to make its utmost so as interests of Bosnia's and Herzegovina's Moslem community "were taken into consideration in the course of the political settlement."

Armed Forces Commander Views Bosnia Mission

LD0403225594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1403 GMT 4 Mar 94

[From the "Military Courier" program]

[Text] Russia is starting to play a more active role in settling the Balkans crisis, reinforcing its diplomatic efforts with a specific peacemaking contribution.

[Unidentified correspondent] The arrival of Russian paratroopers in the Sarajevo area was a key moment in the implementation of plans for a political settlement of the crisis in Bosnia. As stated by Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the general staff of the Russian Armed Forces, the proposed air bombardment of Serbian positions could bring about a fresh escalation of the Balkans war.

[Begin Kolesnikov recording] I would like particularly to emphasize that by agreeing to make bomb strikes against targets around Sarajevo, the NATO Command put itself, I would say, in a fairly ambiguous position. It was publicly stated that the use of force was to be the instrument which, it was claimed, would make it possible to normalize the situation around Sarajevo. In actual fact Western diplomats have admitted that bomb strikes would have been been regarded in the North Atlantic alliance as a failure. For this reason the NATO bloc was relieved to learn the news that, thanks to the efforts of Russian diplomacy, success was achieved in convincing the Bosnian Serbs that they needed to withdraw their heavy weapons from the blockade of Sarajevo. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Colonel General Yevgeniy Podkolzin, commander of airborne troops, was directly involved in implementing the plan put forward by Russia for settling the Bosnian crisis.

[Begin Podkolzin recording] I had two meetings with General Rose, commander of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, who assured me and gave me a guarantee that our troops would be safe. Of course no one at present is guaranteeing the lives of our people against the chance sniper's bullet, but as for large-scale combat actions, both sides and also the Bosnia-Herzegovina command have given an assurance that there will not be any such operations. I would like to add that we brought in this battalion or independent formation of 400 men on condition that NATO would not make any bomb strikes and that NATO would verify the fulfilment of the commitments made to NATO by both the Serbian and Muslim sides. Among other things, I was there in the

locality, and on the whole these commitments were almost 100 percent carried out. [end recording]

[Correspondent] At the present time our blue helmets are carrying out their peacemaking mission in the so-called buffer zone in the Bosnian capital. Along a 16-km front they are separating Serbs and Muslims. In addition, Russian paratroopers, together with French blue helmets, are now guarding Sarajevo Airport. By mid-March there will be 1,500 men in the contingent of Russian troops in former Yugoslavia.

Stoltenberg Lauds Russian, U.S. Efforts on Bosnia

LD0503091194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0827 GMT 5 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Startsev]

[Text] Trieste (Friuli-Venezia Giulia region) March 5 Tass—Thorvald Stoltenberg, coordination committee co-chairman of the international conference on former Yugoslavia, called efforts by Russia, the United States and the European Union to settle the Bosnian crisis "a real chance to reach lasting peace".

He stressed in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS on Saturday [5 March] that the initiatives by Moscow and Washington have become "an important step on the road to peace" in the region.

Attempts to resolve the Bosnian crisis were based on theoretical conjectures until recently, Stoltenberg stated. The peaceful process has switched to the sphere of practical solutions. "I'm satisfied that Russia and the United States has started to move in the correct direction," he noted.

Foreign Ministry Lauds UN Resolution on Bosnia

LD0503173594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] The UN Security Council remains the optimal framework for making coordinated decisions concerning the settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to a statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry published by the INTERFAX news agency today.

A spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry referred to the body's passing a resolution on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina initiated by Great Britain, Spain, Russia, the U.S. and France on March 4 as an example of constructive combined efforts by the world community.

The resolution envisions a number of measures to maintain truce in Sarajevo. According to the document, the city's communal services will be repaired under the auspices of the United Nations. There will be set up a fund for the normalization in Sarajevo. In addition, the United Nations will send its special envoy to promote the repair works in the city.

The UN Secretary General was asked to submit a report on the expediency of extending the "security area" status over

the Bosnian cities of Maglaj, Mostar and Vitec for consideration by the Security Council within 10 days.

"The resolution's contents is consistent with the line to achieve the ultimate settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina that Russia has been pursuing. That is why Russia was among its co-authors," the spokesman said.

Another statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry published today stipulates that the deliveries of humanitarian aid to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina "is improving." "At the moment, convoys are shipping aid along all of their routes with virtually no obstacles," according to the statement.

Two Russian truck units of the Russian State Committee for Emergencies take part in the delivery of humanitarian aid. "The Russians' contribution is quite significant: a total of 2,659 tons of aid have been delivered to Bosnia-Herzegovina from January 16 to February 28, including 1,940 tons to Tuzla, 206 tons to Sarajevo, 208 tons to Srebrenica, 111 tons to Gorajde," the statement stipulates.

Vorontsov on UN Resolution 900

LD0503135194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0215 GMT 5 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] The United Nations, 5 Mar—The UN Security Council at its meeting on Friday [4 March] adopted Resolution 900 on normalizing the situation in Sarajevo. The draft of the resolution had been submitted by France and been discussed for almost two weeks. In this connection, the ITAR-TASS correspondent asked Russia's permanent UN representative Yuliy Vorontsov to comment on Russia's involvement in the preparation of the document.

Russia had a number of provisions included that we wanted to see in the resolution, and indeed we reached agreement with its co-authors that a number of provisions would be removed from it. The resolution needed to be, and ended up roughly being a resolution on Sarajevo, and not on all the other problems and issues arising in Bosnia-Herzegovina, such as how Sarajevo's municipal services should be restored. This indeed was the purpose of our amendments and unnecessary things concerning general issues in Bosnia-Herzegovina were removed by the authors of the draft resolution, Vorontsov stated.

Asked about Russia's participation in the peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, Vorontsov noted that the Russian Parliament's decision to send 300 Russian servicemen to Bosnia will be officially confirmed shortly. I understand that there has been a technical hold-up, on account of which Russia has not been included in the list of countries providing troops. Of the 300 Russian servicemen being sent, 100 will be dispatched to Sarajevo and the others will go to Croatia to reinforce our battalion. Really speaking, the Russian battalion is not stationed in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is

stationed in Croatia, but it does form part of the UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR]. Our battalion is part of UNPROFOR.

Churkin on Russia, U.S. 'Interests' in Bosnia

LD0603232694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1445 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin by correspondent Vitaliy Gan; place and date not given; from the "Panorama" program—recorded]

[Text] [Gan] Far from everyone likes this activity of Russia's. For example, the initiatives aimed at easing tension around Sarajevo and opening Tuzla airport for humanitarian aid caused obvious irritation in NATO circles and among some Western leaders. I have turned to Vitaliy Churkin, Russia's deputy foreign minister, for comments.

[Churkin] It seems to me that irritation is not exactly a political category. Indeed, there were some people in the West who wanted air strikes and saw them as the main task at the time. That was not possible, and therefore such politicians probably do not like what Russia did. If one were to speak about the official political reaction, it was quite normal. We were thanked for making it possible to find the way out of the crisis situation around Sarajevo. Moreover, after this, everyone recognized without reserve, Russia's role in the Bosnian settlement.

[Gan] Well, Vitaliy Ivanovich, Americans have said that they have strategic interests in former Yugoslavia. Can you say just a few words on what sort of interests they might be and whether Russia has its interests there, too?

[Churkin] I would prefer not to discuss American interests, especially strategic interests, and what is more, in Yugoslavia. I believe, of course, that such interests exist since the United States, like Russia, is a global country and I think that it is in the interests of both Russia and the United States that a political solution to the problem in such an explosive region of the world as the Balkans is found. Speaking about Russia's interests, our interest is primarily in this. We are not only a world power but also a European country and naturally it is in our interests that there is peace in Europe. It is only natural that apart from purely political interests we have practical economic interests. As soon as the war ends sanctions against Yugoslavia will be lifted, and everyone will be able to breathe normally in the entire Balkan region. We are already preparing for this, and we hope that Russia's economic interests, along with the economic interests of other countries, will benefit greatly from this.

[Gan] One is getting an impression that we are supporting different sides in the conflict in Bosnia, I mean we and the West. For example, the Bosnian Serbs leader recently visited Moscow. Incidentally, they put forward a very important initiative with regard to the opening of Tuzla airport for humanitarian aid. The Muslim leader was in Washington. Do you have anything to say about this?

[Churkin] As for Russia, we try to keep in touch with all three sides in the conflict. You were right to point out that Radovan Karadzic was in Moscow. We are expecting to see Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of the Bosnian Government and one of the Muslim leaders, in Moscow on Sunday, 6 March. Next week, probably on Wednesday, Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic will also be in Moscow. I must say that the coming week will be extremely active from the point of view of our contacts aimed at settling the Yugoslav conflict. One could say that the center of world activity will move to Moscow, because apart from those two visits that I have just mentioned, we are also expecting to see in Moscow the Italian foreign minister who will mainly be here because of the Yugoslav affairs, while on 12 March the Greek foreign minister will come here, to talk about Yugoslavia as well. This round of contacts will be concluded on 14 March at a meeting in Vladivostok between our Foreign Minister Kozyrev and the U.S. state secretary.

[Gan] There has been fighting and missile attacks in Sarajevo in the last few days. What are the peace prospects?

[Churkin] The present situation in Sarajevo is better, although, as you said, there is sporadic fighting, and there have been reports about single missile attacks. But this is not at all what it was like, even two weeks ago. The situation in the city is much calmer. In general, there are still a lot of conflict zones in Bosnia, and many problems. Combat action continues in a number of areas of the country. I think that some partial measures will not be enough here. A global political settlement is needed here. A really great work has already been done by everyone toward a settlement. It seems to me that we still have to make a last step or two. But as you know, the last battle is always the most difficult one, not only a military one, but also a political and a diplomatic one. Therefore, I would not give any particularly optimistic forecasts. Thank you.

First Group of Russian Experts Arrive in Tuzla

LD0603160294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1410 GMT 6 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 6 Mar—The vanguard group of experts from the ministry of emergency situations and other Russian departments arrived in Tuzla today. In the Bosnian town under Muslim control, it is to pave the way for accommodating a larger group of observers called on to monitor consignments arriving at the local airport.

Russian observers are being sent to Tuzla in line with an understanding reached with the leadership of the Bosnian Serbs in Moscow recently. Radovan Karadzic, their leader, agreed that Tuzla airport should be opened to receive humanitarian consignments provided they are monitored by observers from Russia. Tuzla airport is in a frontline zone and normally can operate only with the agreement of the Serbian side.

According to estimates by the UN headquarters, flights may begin to Tuzla airport as early as 18 March. Dozens of observer-monitors will become operational to inspect and check the consignments with a view to banning anything of a military nature. Experts from other countries will be here along with their Russian colleagues.

Zhirinovskiy Claims Credit for Foreign Policy Successes

LD0503171894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has already carried out two provisions of its pre-election program—alteration of the Russian foreign policy and release of political prisoners, LDP Leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy stressed at a meeting with his voters in Sokolniki (Moscow district) on Saturday [5 March].

He pointed out the role played by the LDP in the adoption of the resolution on amnesty and regretted the continuing confrontation between the White and the Red. He proposed that this period be completed and everyone be forgiven. "The best victory is the one at the elections than on barricades," Zhirinovskiy believes.

Commenting on the alteration of the Russian foreign policy, he remarked that the crisis in Sarajevo had been resolved due to the LDP position in the State Duma. The LDP had stated that "bombardment of Serb positions would mean a war against Russia." "Thousands of Serbs were saved from inevitable death thanks to me and our party," Zhirinovskiy affirmed.

However, the LDP leader continues to insist on resignation of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev saying that Kozyrev could not "radically change the foreign policy."

Zhirinovskiy demanded once again that the economic sanctions against Serbia be lifted. "They can dress and feed us. Russia can station there its servicemen withdrawn from Germany. Our soldiers and officers will not leave [as received] in camps like now," he suggested.

Speaking on the enlarged meeting of the government on Friday, Zhirinovskiy pointed out that Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin had shown that he intended to alter the policy and was against "those ministers who hampered the move forward." According to the LDP leader, there are 4 such ministers in the present government—Vice Premiers Aleksandr Shokhin and Anatoliy Chubays, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policies Sergey Shakhray.

Zhirinovskiy also demanded that the military industrial complex be completely restored since military production sold abroad could ensure "years of good life for Russians." He said Philippines had been ready to acquire the MIG-29 military planes and officials had concealed the documents and were waiting for bribes.

About 1000 people were listening to Zhirinovskiy at the rally near the metro.

Ministry Official on Withdrawal From Estonia

MK0603100094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 6 Mar 94 p 4

[Sergey Tsekhmistrenko report in the "Russian-Estonian Negotiations" column: "Grudgingly, Tallinn Has Agreed to a Dialogue With Moscow"]

[Text] Although Tallinn has already announced to the whole world its intention to conduct a dialogue with Moscow only with international mediation, on the evening of 4 March the Estonian Government made a decision not to interrupt direct negotiations with Russia on the troops pullout. Motivating its position exclusively by "goodwill," Tallinn invited Moscow to conduct consultations "at a high political level" (at foreign minister level, as Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik explained). Having assessed the Estonians' decision as "reasonable," Aleksandr Udaltsov, deputy chief of the Second European Department at the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry (he is in charge of the Baltics), in a conversation with KOMMERSANT-DAILY's correspondent noted that Moscow in fact planned to halt the negotiating process. Yet the Estonians are to back up their "goodwill" by no less good deeds, and for the time being the date for a final withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia remains open.

Moscow's position is based on three fundamental principles: the provision of social guarantees to the Russian military pensioners living in Estonia (10,500 people), the dropping of claims for compensation for "ecological damage from the troop presence" in exchange for the real estate left over by them ("zero option"), and the granting by the Estonians of \$23 million to build housing for the withdrawing troops. According to Mr. Udaltsov, last November the Estonians themselves proposed the above sum together with the "zero option," at the same time offering concessions on the issue of military pensioners. Given this, Moscow promised at the time to move the pullout date to August 1994. Yet signs are that the Estonians' promises were just a tactical ploy aimed apparently at the Western public, which is sensitive to Baltic issues.

In December, it became clear that the pensioners agreement can hardly be reached: Estonia adopted a law whereby being "potential enemies of the Estonian people and statehood," they cannot count on getting citizenship in the republic or any other political and property rights. Soon Tallinn's position on the payment of the \$23 million also changed. The Estonians stated that Moscow simply misunderstood them: apparently they meant... "the Vancouver package," more specifically the \$160 million allocated by the United States within its framework to provide for the retirees. True, in a hurry to share these outside funds, Estonia failed to notice that those monies were not meant for active duty officers.

According to Mr. Udaltsov, in spite of Russia's interest in getting the troops out of Estonia as soon as possible ("there is no point in their further presence there"), it cannot be entirely ruled out that the last Russian soldier may not leave the republic by 31 August. Moscow will not allow a

repetition of the "Lithuanian precedent" and will not withdraw the troops until corresponding agreements have been reached. Mr. Udaltsov is sure that the Estonians will not succeed in appealing to the United Nations or the CSCE because their resolutions say that the pullout of troops should proceed on the basis of such agreements. One is only left to hope that Mr. Udaltsov's certainty will meet with understanding in international organizations and that they will not violate their own decisions.

Churkin: 'No Strings' Attached To Baltic Withdrawals

LD0603163494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1517 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Russia is seeking political ways of persuading Latvia and Estonia to review their position on the status of Russian-speaking communities there but there are no strings attached to troop withdrawals from those countries, Vice Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin said in Moscow on Sunday [6 March].

In a speech to the Yeltsin-sponsored public chamber discussing the plight of Russian-speaking communities in Baltic states, Churkin said that in international law, Russia was perfectly right to link any economic cooperation with those countries to the treatment of Russian residents there.

"Of course, economic blockades or sanctions is not the best of options, but it will be unrealistic to expect that Russia will meet those countries half-way in the face of their deliberate policy of discrimination against our compatriots," he said.

Churkin said that any show of respect for members of the Russian-speaking communities there would be met with "understanding and response" in Russia.

In his words, Moscow works on the assumption that ensuring human rights regardless of citizenship is a key element of internationally-recognized standards. He pointed to Lithuania's human rights record as an example.

Speaking in an interview with Interfax, Churkin stressed the need to speed up the formation of a special government body responsible for solving the problem of Russian communities in former Soviet republics. He said the need for such a structure was caused by the dimension of the problem itself and necessity to rally effort by various departments. Churkin believes such a body can operate under the wing of the foreign ministry though as an independent organization.

Churkin Says Protection of Baltic Russians 'Priority'

LD0603120494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1028 GMT 6 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Mar—Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin has stated that the Russian Foreign Ministry considers the protection of the rights and interests of ethnic Russians in the Baltic states as a priority task in its work in the Baltics. He said this today at a meeting of the

Public Chamber under the Russian president, which is examining the position of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic countries—to be precise, in Latvia and Estonia—since, according to the participants of the discussion, “normal conditions have been created in Lithuania for ethnic Russians.”

Having pointed out that “the infringement of the rights of the Russians and Russian-speaking population in Latvia and Estonia is giving cause for great concern,” Vitaliy Churkin underlined that the discussion of this issue by the Public Chamber proves that this problem has “really a political connotation.” At the same time, according to him, “this is not paying tribute to the present state of affairs. Our treatment of this issue is being dictated by the concern for Russians who have found themselves beyond the borders of their fatherland.” The problem is extremely complex and the Foreign Affairs Ministry is striving to show maximum flexibility in solving it, the deputy minister said in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. “You can understand the anxiety of Latvians who think that having 40 percent Russians in their republic is a lot,” Vitaliy Churkin said. “But the problem needs to be and can be solved in the framework of cooperation, taking into account, if nothing else, the fact that it was the Russian Federation that helped Latvia attain independence, and not at the price of forcing out Russian-speakers from territory on which they have been living for many years, many of them even having been born there.” In the opinion of Vitaliy Churkin, the time has come to equate Russophobia with such phenomena as aggressive nationalism, chauvinism, and antisemitism.

Vitaliy Churkin said that Russia's Foreign Ministry was implementing three main policies in its work: the maintenance of direct communications with Russians in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia to be of practical assistance to them in adapting to new conditions of life; a bilateral dialogue with the Baltic states; and the use of international organizations and contacts with leading countries of the West to draw attention to this problem. He noted, among other things, that the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation was constantly drawing the attention of the CSCE and the Council of Europe to the situation of Russian-speakers in the Baltic countries. A Russian delegation at the permanent committee of the CSCE has regularly been initiating debate on this matter, urging it to take specific steps in this area.

After stressing that Russia “does not intend to distance itself from the resolution of the problem,” the deputy minister said that the Foreign Ministry had detailed a program for the defense of the rights and interests of ethnic Russians in the countries of the CIS and Russia, which laid out a range of measures needed to be implemented to assist where necessary compatriots who had found themselves in a difficult situation abroad.

Chamber Approves Drafts on Russians in Baltics

LD0603172494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1622 GMT 6 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow March 6 TASS—After heated debates over the situation of ethnic Russians in the Baltic republics, the Public Chamber under the Russian president approved “in principle” on Sunday [6 March] three documents: recommendations for the Russian president, appeals to the Federation Council and the State Duma, and an address to Russian citizens.

It was decided that after being finalized by a drafting committee and an initiative group, the documents would be forwarded by a co-chairmen to the addressees.

Public chamber co-chairman Boris Topornin said at the close of the meeting that issues submitted for the chamber's consideration should be worked out more carefully.

After hearing officials of the Russian Foreign Ministry and other relevant agencies, including the Migration Service, the Ministry for Cooperation, the Russian ambassadors to Latvia and Estonia, members of the Public Chamber agreed that “numerous violations of the rights of compatriots take place” in the Baltic republics of Latvia and Estonia.

Not only people who settled in the Baltics after 1940, but also many of native residents have been stripped of citizenship there. Hundreds of thousands of non-citizens do not have the right to own land and real estate, they are even forbidden to change their flats. They are barred from public service, they are also socially deprived. Life is especially difficult for former servicemen and members of their families. All this can be considered as “a deliberate discriminatory policy of ousting ethnic Russians.”

Reporting some cases of discrimination of Latvia's ethnic Russians and Russian-speaking “non-citizens,” President of the Sodruzhestvo Foundation Mikhail Zadornov, who was among of the initiators of the discussion in the public chamber, pointed out that Russia did not provide actual assistance to ethnic Russians outside it and to forced migrants coming to the country.

This view was shared by many politicians and public figures. They believe the president should “come up with a statement on the concept of Russia's state policy with respect to compatriots.” This motion was included into a draft recommendation by the public chamber for President Boris Yeltsin.

The Foreign Ministry was recommended to regard protection of the interests of ethnic Russians living in the Baltic states as a priority task and to step up its activities in international organizations with an aim to spotlight violations of human rights in the Baltic countries. The Russian Government was recommended to speed the drafting and passage of a federal programme for protection and support of ethnic Russians residing in former Soviet republics. The public chamber called upon the Federation Council and the State Duma to ratify within the shortest possible time the agreements and accords signed with Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. These agreements are designed to ensure legal protection of ethnic Russians.

Participants in the discussion emphasized that ethnic Russians in other ex-Soviet republics had found themselves in rather desperate conditions as well. Each of the newly-independent states "has its own specific problems related to the Russian-speaking population, but the need for actions to protect compatriots living there are extremely acute in all of them," the Public Chamber stressed.

Investigation Continues Into Riga Attack

LD0603172394 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1016 GMT 6 Mar 94

[By unidentified *ITAR-TASS* correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Mar—Documents covering an investigation by the Riga garrison military procurator's office, which have been sent to the Russian chief military procurator's office, confirm the information provided on 25 February by *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy that soldiers belonging to the North Western Group of Forces [NWGF] had that day been admitted with wounds to Riga military hospital.

According to E. Kuzmin, the military procurator's office junior sergeant and Privates S. Fedorov, A. Dumilin and A. Ivanov, soldiers belonging to the 651st Independent Company for escorting NWGF freight and stationed at military unit No. 52241 in Riga, were on the night of 25 February admitted to the 289th district military hospital in Riga with various wounds. (?Contact Service) Private Sergey Glinka of Military Unit No. 52241 diagnosed as suffering from a knife wound had already been admitted to the same hospital on the previous evening. All five stated on their admission to hospital that they had received their injuries and wounds when they were attacked by unknown civilians. All this investigation information was reported on the night of 25 February to the Russian chief military procurator's office by the Riga garrison military procurator's office duty officer.

These facts need to be set out in such detail, since on 2 March the NWGF press center issued information that no servicemen suffering from injuries and wounds inflicted by unknown assailants had recently been admitted to Riga military hospital.

The military procurator's office is continuing to investigate the facts.

Kozyrev Urges Observers in Occupied Territories

LD0503173194 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1620 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Introduction of foreign observers to the occupied Palestinian territories could decrease the tension emerged after the tragedy in Hebron, the Russian foreign minister suggested during the meeting with Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali in Moscow on Saturday [5 March].

According to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, it is important to discuss the peaceful process from a new

angle and to speed it up. This was the purpose of the second plenary meeting of the Madrid Peace Conference on the Middle East initiated by a Russian co-sponsor.

The Moroccan foreign minister highly appraised the active mediation of Russia. He spoke for enhancing interaction between Russian and the Arab states, including Morocco, in order to achieve complete and fair peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

The Moroccan minister translated a message from Moroccan King Hassan II addressed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Several issues concerning the bilateral relations were also discussed on the initiative of the Russian party. The parties spoke for enlargement of cooperation and for organization of the appropriate negotiations in Morocco in the near future. Chairman of the Russian Committee on Fishing, Vladimir Korelskiy took part in the conversation.

Settlement of the issue concerning Western Sahara within the scope of the UN peaceful plan was considered among other issues. The two foreign ministers supported the initiatives of the UN secretary general and his envoys on the referendum which was to be held in Western Sahara under international control.

Ivanov Comments on Russian, U.S. Role in Mideast

LD0603183894 Moscow *Russian Television Network in Russian* 1700 GMT 6 Mar 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has returned from his trip connected with the Middle East settlement. Ivanov handed Yasir 'Arafat a personal message from the Russian president expressing Russia's firm intention to contribute to the achievement of all-encompassing peace and security in the Middle East. Here is correspondent Aleksandr Peslyak with the details:

[Peslyak] After the Hebron tragedy, the situation in the Middle East has sharply deteriorated. In order to prevent an escalation of violence and promote a resumption of the negotiating process, on the instructions of the Russian president our diplomat has spent three days shuttling between Tel Aviv and Tunis holding talks with 'Arafat, Rabin, and Peres.

[Begin Ivanov recording] We discussed in particular the need to adopt an urgent UN Security Council resolution, which would condemn the crime committed and which would also be aimed at promoting a resumption of the negotiating process. [end recording]

[Peslyak] Also, Ivanov believes, it is important to ensure an international presence in the region, and an active role on the part of the cosponsors of the process, the United States and Russia. Apart from anything else, it is precisely the impetus from outside that will help the Palestinians and Israelis to sit down again at the negotiating table, because the shock from a breakdown in the document, which was 90 percent agreed, which could have been

implemented in mid-April, is too great, and there are no direct contacts between the sides. But joint actions by Washington and Moscow do not preclude independent efforts by each one of them. Tomorrow, Ivanov is having a meeting with envoys from Israel and the Arab countries, and today he had a conversation with the U.S. ambassador.

Germany To Jointly Monitor Radiation Level Sites

LD0403210394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2009 GMT 4 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS free-lance correspondent Aleksandr Shuvalov]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—Russia and Germany have started the second stage of the creation of a system for monitoring of radiation-danger facilities.

Sensors will be located at the Kursk and either Novovoronezh or Leningrad nuclear power plants. The final choice of the plant will be done at a meeting of Russian and German environmental ministers on March 9-10 in Leipzig.

The monitoring system is expected to be used at all nuclear power plants of Russia's European part by 1995 under an agreement reached at a meeting of Russian experts that closed here today. It provides for location of sensors measuring the radiation level on the area around radiation-danger facilities (30 kilometers for nuclear power plants). The sensor information will be passed over to Moscow's Federal Center of Radiology Control via satellite.

The first stage of the system has been completed at the Smolensk nuclear power plant. Its information has been available since December 1993.

The Russian-German cooperation is done within the framework of an agreement on collection, transfer, analysis and estimation of radiology information. The document provides for German equipment of the federal center, supplies of standard software and development of applied software. The Russian side is in charge of basic assets, location of sensors and satellite communications.

The agreement also includes bilateral exchange of information once a day under regular conditions and every ten minutes in case of the radiation level increase.

ROK Denies North Korean Workers Seeking Asylum

LD0703094694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0852 GMT 7 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul March 7 TASS—The South Korean Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS there was no truth in recent Seoul press reports that many North Korean woodcutters working in Russia have been applying for political asylum in South Korea. The South Korean Ministry said cases of defection could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

A competent source in the South Korean Foreign Ministry said about seventy North Koreans were seeking to settle in Russia for fear their flight to South Korea could spell out disaster for their families and relatives in North Korea.

The same source said that under the South Korean Constitution all inhabitants of the Korean peninsula are regarded as citizens of the Republic of Korea. In this connection the Government of the Republic of Korea shows interest in the fate of northern compatriots. Seoul expects Russia to regard the North Korean workers who fled from the North Korean labour camps as refugees and, respecting their rights as such, not to deport them to North Korea.

Seoul is now considering ways of bringing its internal regulations and provisions for Korean immigrants and defectors in line with international standards, the source said without specifying what changes will be made.

The Seoul press alleged last month that between 100 and 150 North Korean workers escaped from Siberian wood-cutting spells and asked for political asylum in South Korean diplomatic offices in Russia. North Korea rejected the allegations.

This year three North Koreans were reported have reached South Korea from Siberia and obtained residence permits here. They had not approached either the embassy nor the South Korean consular offices in Russia.

Central Bank Chairman Arrives in Beijing

LD0503215594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1047 GMT 5 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Arslanov]

[Text] Beijing, 5 Mar—Viktor Gerashchenko, the chairman of Russia's Central Bank, arrived in Beijing today at the invitation of the People's Bank of China. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from informed sources that during Viktor Gerashchenko's talks with the heads of the People's Bank and the Bank of China, and also with the Chinese State Administration for Exchange Control, there will be discussion of issues relating to further improving currency, finance, and accounting relations between the Russian Federation and the PRC.

During his sojourn in Beijing, and during a trip to Shanghai and the Shenzhen special economic zone, the Russian Central Bank chairman will be briefed on the progress of reforms in the money and credit sphere in China.

Report on Land Concessions to China Sparks Dispute

OW0703091094 Taipei CNA in English 0734 GMT 7 Mar 94

[By Vladimir Mikh]

[Text] Moscow, March 7 (CNA)—Recent Russian media reports which claim that the Yeltsin administration

secretly gave away some two thousand islands to the People's Republic of China have fueled discontent in Russia's border regions.

Sparking the dispute was a report which originated in Japan that after 24 years of negotiations, Russia and Mainland China have agreed that the big Ussuri Island belongs to China.

The large island is only a few hundred meters off the coast of the Russian city Khabarovsk, and if it is turned over to the PRC, the two nations would only be separated by a small strip of water.

The report has raised the ire of local residents, who reportedly are willing to fight to remain under Russian rule.

"If the big Ussuri Island is transferred to the jurisdiction of the People's Republic of China, the whole city will take up pitchforks and go out and fight, and I shall be in the frontline," Mr. Viktor Ishayev, the head of the Khabarovsk regional administration, was quoted as saying by SEGODNYA, the Moscow daily.

However, reports about the transfer have been denied by Russian officials.

Yuriy Arkharov, deputy head of the joint Russian-Chinese Commission on Border Demarcation, resolutely refuted the allegations of a secret "sell-out." Other officials have also denied any of the reported 2,000 island were turned over to the Chinese Communists.

Cross-border traffic and disputes have increased since recent relaxations in border controls, SEGODNYA reported. The relaxation of controls has cleared the way for "barbaric fishing practices by Chinese fishermen," and increased Chinese ship traffic, has "exacerbated the poor ecological conditions in the city," the daily said.

Regardless of the growing discontent, the official Russian stance is that since no mutually acceptable decision is in view, both sides will put the issue aside for the time being and continue to uphold the status quo.

Indian Army Head Favors Technical Cooperation

LD0303185194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1541 GMT 5 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow March 5 TASS—Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Committee of Indian Armed Forces General Bipin Chandra Joshi today highly appreciated the results of his visit to Russia. The esteemed Indian guest is flying home on Sunday [6 March] morning.

India maintains deep interest in military and technical cooperation with Russia, General Joshi emphasised talking to ITAR-TASS. Our army is equipped with 70 per cent of arms made in Soviet union, and lately we are experiencing problems in its modernization and ensuring supplies of spare parts, the general noted.

The Indian military commander said that Russia has commitments in the sphere of defence from the former Soviet Union, including supplies of military equipment and spare parts for it. He also spoke of India's interest in acquiring the most up-to date weapons.

Commander-in-chief of the Russian Army Colonel-General Vladimir Semyonov, who also took part in the talk, said that the Russian side will help the Indian Army equip T-72 tanks with new engines and arms and also modernize other military ware. According to the Russian commander-in-chief, the Indian side has displayed interest in helicopters, hovercraft and particularly in control and reconnaissance systems. Certain kinds of arms India will, possibly, take on lease for 2-3 years for an appropriate fee, he said.

Political Issues**Khasbulatov Criticizes Constitution, Yeltsin***LD0603203394 Rome RAI Uno Television Network in Italian 1900 GMT 6 Mar 94*

[Interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov by correspondent Lucio Gambacorta, in Moscow; Khasbulatov in Russian with superimposed Italian translation; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gambacorta] Are you happy with the amnesty?

[Khasbulatov] Of course, it is not a pleasant experience to be in prison. However, they would have released me soon in any case, partly because of my health, but above all because the judges could not find a shred of evidence against me.

[Gambacorta] President Yeltsin maintains ...

[Khasbulatov, interrupting] But which president? He was elected president under the old Constitution, which he himself regards as being undemocratic and to be annulled. However, this Constitution is still better than the one which he had passed in December without allowing the people to discuss it. I do not believe that the 20th century has yet seen a worse constitution.

[Gambacorta] Boris Yeltsin maintains that he is in total control of the situation. What do you think about this?

[Khasbulatov] I only say that in his message to the chambers Boris Nikolayevich accepted 99 percent of the proposals which we made three years ago. He accepted our diplomacy and gave in to the extent that he reduced us to a satellite state. Suddenly we find ourselves once again a great power. In Russia, if Yeltsin's supporters want to, they can start a new civil war, like the one in October which had a death toll of 1,500 and not the 150 which the government maintains. Must we perhaps forget everything? This is fascism, and the people have realized this.

Rutskoy Denies Seeking Power 'By All Means'*LD0403182694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 4 Mar 94*

[Text] Former Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy said he did not intend to seek power by all means as it was alleged. "After the 5 months in the Lefortovo prison I realized the tragedy which had happened," he stressed in a telephone conversation with an Interfax correspondent.

Rutskoy said he was not guided neither by evil nor by revenge. "Evil comes from evil. There was a bloodshed in October 1993 and innocent people perished. If we start clearing up our relations there might be a bloodshed again. We will have to face the danger of total death," he pointed out.

Rutskoy announced that he was to complete his 3-volume book within a month (each volume has about 400-500 pages). According to him, he saw that the present leaders make nearly every mistake against which he had warned.

He believes there was no reason to let the situation develop into the tragedy. He said he did not try to cover politics in his book since he saw no necessity to settle accounts or to criticize anybody.

Rutskoy believes that there must be civilized economic and political relations established in Russia. The rule must be carried out through motivation rather than through commands.

Commenting on the reforms, Rutskoy emphasized that they must be based juridically. "All rallies finally lead to fights," he said.

Rutskoy Grants Interview to IZVESTIYA*PM0703122794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 94 p 2*

[Interview with former Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by Vladimir Ivanidze; place and date not given: "Aleksandr Rutskoy Has Taken One Month To Reflect"]

[Text] He lifted the telephone handset on the 11th ring. The voice sounded calm and seemed not to have changed at all. Vice President [as published] Aleksandr Rutskoy said that he would not grant an interview to journalists for a month, but he did not refuse to speak to IZVESTIYA's correspondent.

[Ivanidze] What do you intend to do?

[Rutskoy] I want to see how the land lies. I want to understand what is happening around me now. In my view, the picture is rather dismal. They have been quite unable to abandon police methods. Everything remains as in former times. My telephone is tapped, believe me. External observation is hardly concealed. Not that all this is so terrible.... But what happened last October.... I believe that time will judge us. [Rutskoy ends]

When he started speaking of the October events, I admit I was prepared to hear the usual accusatory words in such situations. We are the good guys, and they are the bad guys. The vice president must be given his due. This did not happen. At a certain moment it even seemed to me that Rutskoy was tormented not so much by the bitterness of political defeat as by the deaths of the people who took his side. "The most terrible thing is that people died. They were not a rabble, as is being written. They were normal young people of very diverse professions.... It could all have been different," Aleksandr Vladimirovich said.

It is interesting that throughout the conversation he did not once mention his court actions against IZVESTIYA. Even when I asked him about the court and the millions of rubles in compensation, he did not at once understand what I was talking about. "ARGUMENTY I FAKTY telephoned me and asked me to drop the case. But I cannot do that. I could not reply to anyone when I was held in Lefortovo, when all these 'documents' were published.... I don't want money. I want apologies."

Does the vice president understand that after the elections to the State Duma he has become the most dangerous person for everyone? That the "spiritual" opposition, having secured seats in the Duma, now sees him as a serious rival to its leaders in the next presidential election? The amnesty puts Rutskoy in the position of someone on a gallows who could have the stool kicked from under his feet at any moment. When I told Rutskoy that even the communist PRAVDA speaks of him as a general sent by Yeltsin into the opposition in order to split it, Rutskoy took a deep breath and said with irritation:

"You know, I lost faith in all sorts of '-isms' even before people started handing in their party cards."

Rutskoy Profiled as Presidential Contender

PM0403143994 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 3 Mar 94 p 3

[Mikhail Sharov report under the "Pertinent Remarks" rubric: "Will Justice Remain on Rutskoy's Side?"]

[Text] The Lefortovo prisoners are free. But people in the president's entourage are today making desperate attempts to rewrite the State Duma's decree on political amnesty—which, incidentally, was adopted by an absolute majority. Some call this decision "political madness," others try to frighten us by talking about "the beginning of civil war," while still others, taking advantage of the opportunity, seek to heap all the blame for the events of last October exclusively on the defenders of the House of Soviets.

But what do the people, the selfsame people in whose name statements are often made, the people whose voice they do not want to hear, think about this?

For more than a month now my heart has been wracked by these two huge files of readers' letters. They convey the penetratingly clear voice of hundreds of people. And not to heed this voice, to "file it away" in the archives, would mean to forego conscience and honor, cowardly to evade direct questions which require equally direct answers: These letters are in defense of the prisoners held in Lefortovo, and the overwhelming majority are about Rutskoy. These hundreds of messages include 23 collective letters, and very many family letters; there are also some which are signed by all (all!) the inhabitants of a village or members of a labor collective. There are only two letters which condemn the vice president's actions. There was nothing even close to such a phenomenon in the times of the hounding of B.N. Yeltsin.

"Dear Editors! This letters comes from the inhabitants of the village of Zhdanovka and the village of Maresovo in Krasnooktyabrskiy Rayon, Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast. We often read reactions to the events of 3-4 October on the pages of your newspaper. We support the actions of A.V. Rutskoy and parliament. We believe that the actions of the president and the government were provocative. The shelling of the 'White House' by heavy artillery was really quite inhuman. Thus we are on the side of those who are

calling for the liberation of A.V. Rutskoy and all the prisoners of Lefortovo. Let the real culprits suffer punishment...."

It is signed by:

Yu.N. Dydykin, teacher; L.V. Dydykina, teacher; N.A. Fomichev, welder.... Fifty-five signatures in all.

Another letter is from the village of Dubrovka in Maslyanskiy Rayon, Novosibirsk Oblast. The letter, which carries the message "We are with you!" is signed by as many as 73 people. A third letter, which carries 52 signatures, sent by workers and technical and engineering personnel of the "Armizonagropromsnab" AOOT [expansion unknown], Tyumen Oblast, reads: "We demand the release from custody of A.V. Rutskoy, R.I. Khasbulatov, and the other deputies held in jail. Every self-respecting person would have acted in the same way in their position."

Geographically, the writers of collective letters come from all over Russia: Bryansk, Rostov, Smolensk, Volgograd, Ryazan, Belgorod, Kaliningrad, Chelyabinsk, Tambov, Leningrad, and Kursk Oblasts; Altay and Kuban; the Republics of Komi and Chuvashia. Participants in the Great Patriotic War and veterans of agricultural production V.S. Belashov, N.T. Zasoba, and M.A. Mironenko from Rostov-na-Donu write: "We are with you, Aleksandr Vladimirovich [Rutskoy]. Don't lose courage and steadfastness. All honorable people are on your side. Demand that you be given the opportunity to appeal to the people and tell them the truth about the October events. Sooner or later retribution will befall those who ordered the tanks to open against unarmed people. Despite everything, the people will recognize those 'heroes' who sold themselves for dollars, who opened fire on their own parliament, and beat up deputies. Whatever happens, history will tell the truth and put everyone in their proper place."

Yes, history will undoubtedly tell the truth and give everyone their just deserts, when the many hidden springs which prompted the bloodshed in the center of Moscow are declassified and made public. This will not be tomorrow, or even the day after tomorrow. But there is no doubt that this will happen—our readers are absolutely right on this account.

I think that the nearer the presidential elections draw, the more pressingly and vociferously the problem, which I would conditionally call "the Rutskoy question," will arise. The ruling team will do their utmost to limit the former vice president's activity as much as possible and to prevent him from running for president. The opposition will feverishly seek a national leader on whom to place its major stake.

On whom will this choice fall? On Baburin? An extraordinary and attractive figure without a doubt. But I think that, in view of his youth, his moment of glory still lies ahead. On Svetlana Petrovna Goryachevaya? But she, I think, will not want to soil her shining conscience and clean hands in politics any further. There is Gennadiy Zyuganov, the pragmatic and powerful leader of the Communist Party of

Russia, who has grown before our very eyes into a major political figure, with whose opinion even the "hawks" on the democratic wing have to reckon. But Communists have been so tarnished and discredited in the eyes of the public, that years will be required to melt the ice of distrust and wariness. On Zhirinovskiy? But no self-respecting left or center party will want to have dealings with the impulsive and unpredictable leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (we have already tried "unpredictables").

I venture to suggest that the stake will be placed on Rutskoy. He will "satisfy" the patriots and statist—the vice president's recent statements give them no reason to doubt his "reliability." The Agrarians and Travkin's party undoubtedly find him attractive. The depoliticized Army will probably vote for him so as to rehabilitate themselves, so to speak, for participating in the shelling of the House of Soviets. I think that even the Communist Party has already forgotten Rutskoy's schismatic stance in the early days of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, and will back him for the sake of achieving their strategic goals. Women, and also veterans, will undoubtedly vote for the young and likable Hero of the Soviet Union and general.

But Rutskoy's biggest support could be the **people**, who did not attach themselves to any of the dwarfish or more massive parties, but kept their sense of compassion for a man who had been mistreated—there is always a peculiar sympathy for the persecuted in Rus (does not the coming to power of the current president also illustrate this?). I think that voters will forget Rutskoy's excessive hotheadedness and emotionalism—he had plenty of time in Lefortovo to cool his ardor, to soberly reflect on his views and actions, to "settle down" once and for all and mature into a major political figure.

Especially today Rutskoy must be viewed in two dimensions. The 1991 model of Rutskoy the wounded hero, and the Rutskoy of today. The past three years have been for him not simply a time of getting to know the corridors of power, not simply a political academy—the three past years, for him as perhaps for no other, have contained enough events and trials to last others a lifetime.

Let us recall that it was not without the aid of Rutskoy, who split the communist faction in the Congress of People's Deputies, that B.N. Yeltsin became chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Having become vice president, Rutskoy zealously served his boss, but then made a sharp retreat. Let me remark that this retreat came at the time of the beginning of drastic reforms which cast Russia into the abyss of the severest crisis. The evolution of Rutskoy's views and actions took place in parallel with the evolution of the majority of the people, who have entirely lost faith that the reforms promise them work, peace, and sufficiency. In other words, in these trouble times Rutskoy, in his world outlook and actions, as it were reflected, upheld, and defended not so much his own position, as the position of the majority of the people, and not the so-called capital electorate. That is to say, he showed himself to be **not above** the voters, but **with the majority** of his voters. And it is probably this which explains the fact that it is above all the ordinary people that have come to his defense.

Now that Rutskoy is free, people—but this time people in the investigative and judicial organs—will probably begin to speak again about his imaginary millions in a Swiss bank account, and the initiative in completing the investigations will belong, not to the masters of fabricating falsehoods this time, but to Rutskoy himself. The exposure of the authors of falsifications, the furor which will be raised in the mass media, will undoubtedly help to foster his image.

Let us not forget either another major trump card which he will undoubtedly use, and which no other aspirant could possibly hold. After all, it was he, Rutskoy, who was the first of the president's entourage to affirm the perniciousness of the chosen course; it was he who warned that the "Chicago kids" would bring Russia to ruin, it was he who lifted the curtain on the corruption that has embraced the upper echelons of power—it was for this, in point of fact, that he was initially slandered and ridiculed, and then removed from the political stage as an actor displeasing to the ruling regime, one who knew too much.

In focusing attention on Rutskoy as the potential leader of the organized opposition, I by no means rule out other candidates. These could even include the current State Duma Speaker I.P. Rybkin, or someone else, perhaps as yet unknown to the broad mass of political commentators. For the time being I am reflecting only on **possible** candidates.

It is entirely possible that the opposition will fix its choice on V.D. Zorkin, whose civic and political standpoint in many ways absorbs the views and aims of those who are **simply dissatisfied** with the progress of reforms, and those who **decisively disagree** with their content.

In view of the Russian mentality, Zorkin, like Rutskoy, has many chances of victory, if, of course, he agrees to take part in the presidential elections. He is a faithful servant of the law and a tireless defender of the Constitution who is "sick of cringing" to the present authorities. He in no way compromised himself or blackened his reputation in the events of October; by nature and by upbringing he is a peacemaker, inclined to speak and find compromises in crisis situations. Moreover, he was humiliated and persecuted. But, in comparison with Rutskoy, Zorkin is a great diplomat, a more sensible and balanced politician, and, let us not forget, a highly experienced lawyer.

It seems to me that the ideal scenario would be for them to enter the elections in harness. This is not a case of the "fiery steed" and the "timid doe" hitched to the same wagon, but rather, two horses who wish to haul the heavy burden of Russia's difficult problems from the abyss.

Undoubtedly, this does not exhaust the list of potential presidential candidates. There is no doubt that Vladimir Volfovich [Zhirinovskiy] will put forward his candidacy, though his daily plunging popularity hardly leaves him any hope of victory, especially since a major split will probably occur in the liberal democrats' camp.

The current prime minister will most likely stand. But his chances will, in my view, also be slim, since hitherto

unknown facts about the October events, which will by no means be to his advantage, will emerge during the preelection wrangles. Nor will the ever-deteriorating economic background, the growth of prices, and the mass impoverishment of the people, work in his favor.

We could see other well-known names also on the list of aspirants to the post of president. Shakhrai's move away from democrats like Gaydar, Chubays, Ponomarev, and Yakunin, who have failed and compromised themselves, his attempt to glide along the "center," and his statement on the need to free the Lefortovo prisoners, are nothing less than the start of his bid for the presidency, an effort to stake out for himself political territory for the future. Experienced in palace intrigues, a man who knows how to look ahead, and who is flirting with the regions, Sergey Mikhaylovich is clearly seeking to undermine the vigilance of the Russian people.

Without a doubt, the economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy—author of the once-sensational "500 days" program—will also make a bid for power. The democrats are already today trying to convince us all that there is no more popular man in Russia than Yavlinskiy, and thereby an attempt is already at this early stage being made to pave his way to the coveted office. Oh, this made-to-order sociology! I would like to believe that Yavlinskiy's name is well known to the inhabitants of a small town or rayon center, let alone a village. Alas, the name of this undoubtedly clever person, who, however, apart from composing projects, has not yet managed to do anything specific, means little to them.

There is also another undoubtedly brilliant personality in the country, who today has been undeservedly thrust into the backwaters of public life—Yu.V. Skokov, the current chairman of the Federation of Russian Commodity Producers. It is hard to explain why he is out of favor with the powers that be, but it is even harder to explain why he is himself deliberately keeping to the shadows. Is this a subtle game? A tactical ruse: Let the irreconcilables "slug it out," and the enfeebled collapse? Time will answer these questions.

Here is the game of patience that is being played. There can, and probably will, be other names in this pack of candidates. Yegor Gaydar, on whose altar the main efforts and votes of the democrats will be placed, will not fail to try his hand, I think. It goes without saying that he has acquired huge public influence, plus there is his fine political education and lofty intellect. That experienced administrator, Moscow Mayor Yu. Luzhkov, also has chances of fighting for the highest state post. Indeed, even the current president could, as they say, shake his grey locks. But when it comes to the degree of broad renown and popular trust enjoyed by future candidates, the name of Rutskoy is today on everyone's lips. The numerous letters to the editorial offices are also, incidentally, a confirmation of this.

The fact that the authors of these letters are not members of the liberal intelligentsia or the capital's "gilded youth" trading in the kiosks strikes me as important; they are

people remote from group or party prejudices; people of action. Perhaps this is the voice of reason and justice?

"Justice will remain on Rutskoy's side!"—this is how M. Zimin, labor veteran of the Lenin Kolkhoz in Vladimir Oblast's Muromskiy Rayon headed his letter to the editorial offices. Whether this will be the case or not, time will tell. We have not long left to wait.

'White Paper' on Oct Events To Be Published

LD0503155294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1323 GMT 5 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 5 TASS—The Information Department of the Russian president's administration which was established by the presidential decree on Friday, is planning to publish a "white paper" on the October 1993 events in Moscow, Petr Filippov, head of the department, told ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview.

According to Petr Filippov, "the main purpose of the department is to provide news media with objective and reliable materials on policies of the president, the government of the Russian Federation, and the most important socio-economic and political problems of reforming Russian society, and the measures taken for their settlement."

At the same time, the head of the Information Department stressed, "the department will in no way be a new department for propaganda of the CPSU central committee."

Petr Filippov was one of the organizers of establishing this department. Basing his views on the experience of the Czech Republic and other countries, he believes that the course of economic reforms advances faster in society in those cases when the population and news media receive full information on their implementation.

According to the head of the Information Department, now three problems cause the greatest concern. "First, the situation in agriculture connected with reforming unprofitable collective and state farms, and transforming an attitude towards ownership. Second, the problem of non-payments. The third, the problems of forming democracy in Russia, observing the Constitution and developing federalism," Petr Filippov pointed out.

Touching on the organization of the department's work, the department head said that working in this office will be mainly the same experts who worked with him in the analytical center on social policy. The staff of the department will be about 50 people.

Opposition Hopes To 'Stand Tall' Within Months

LD0603164494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1517 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] One of the leaders of the opposition Working Russia Movement and Russian Workers' Communist Party Viktor Anpilov who was recently freed from jail under parliament-declared amnesty says he will not be resigned

to the peace deal offered and "stand on his knees while being robbed". He was speaking at a meeting in Moscow on Saturday sponsored by the former opposition newspaper, DEN, closed by the government last October.

The meeting was also attended by other released opposition leaders including Ilya Konstantinov and Stanislav Terekhov as well as leaders of the Communist and Liberal-Democratic Parties Gennadiy Zyuganov and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

One former Soviet deputy Mrs Saji Umalatova leading "the standing presidium of the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR" claimed that "many innocent people are still behind bars" echoed previous calls on opponents to the Yeltsin regime to close their ranks regardless of difference in views.

For his part, chairman of the executive committee of the National Salvation Front Ilya Konstantinov who was also involved in last October's parliamentary revolt said that "our people are everywhere and biding their time". In his words, the opposition would "stand tall" again within months.

Paper Denies Promoting Chernomyrdin for President

MK0603090094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report in the "Resonance" column: "Viktor Chernomyrdin Denounces His High Rating. One Should Be Happy About This"]

[Text] Any politician in a civilized country is happy if his political weight (as reflected in particular in public opinion polls and expert surveys) grows. And it is only in the perverted Soviet (currently Russian) politics, more backstage than open and fair, that this is feared. Moreover, attempts are even being made to cast a shadow on those who conduct and publish such polls.

In his speech the day before yesterday Viktor Chernomyrdin said among other things the following:

"I cannot but touch upon a problem that is extremely important both for myself in person and for the government I head. The fact is that recently a noisy campaign has been launched in certain news media aimed to 'catch' the government chairman in allegedly concentrating power, taking too much on himself, and generally doing little short of hatching conspiracies to get to the presidential chair. They have even begun to build some rating charts on this score."

We know that there were words inserted into the report following the publication of the February NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA-VP "100 Politicians" rating. We venture to assure the prime minister that our survey, conducted for the last 14 months now, was not launched to set him against the president by February 1994. Especially given that the two above mentioned statesmen have plenty of cause for such a quarrel without our NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. This cause in particular is successfully being

furthered by some pro-government and pro-presidential publications. Fortunately, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA does not belong to either. It is independent. This is printed in large-size letters on top of its first page.

Yeltsin Aide Optimistic on Coordination With Parliament

LD0503192194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 5 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin's address to the parliament has opened a new page in the mutual relations between the head of the state and the legislative power, believes presidential aide Georgiy Satarov.

In his exclusive interview with Interfax he pointed out that coordination of these structures' activity has actually begun. "The main thing which is being carried out in this aspect is coordination of economic platforms contained in the address and developed at the hearings in the State Duma's Economic Policy Committee."

Satarov reported that a joint work, being fulfilled by leader of the group of presidential economic experts Aleksandr Livshits and head of the parliament's lower chamber Sergey Glazyev, has started. In addition, other members of the "presidential team" also undertake joint moves together with representatives of the Duma's other committees.

Following the analysis of the situation after the adoption of the State Duma resolution on amnesty, the parliamentary structures have found a new model of interaction, noted Satarov.

"There is an agreement to create permanent working groups. Their task is to make active the initial stage of preparation of the most important legislative acts," he said. The question concerns, for example, federal constitutional laws, he explained and added that, as a rule, contradictions preventing efficient work appear at the initial stage. "We have discussed the new model of interaction with the Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin. I highly appreciate his statement during his recent meeting with Yeltsin when Rybkin said that the presidential and legislative structures have never before worked in such a close coordination," stressed Satarov.

In his opinion, "this spirit of a team" should become a norm. "The cliché—president plus parliament equals confrontation—is left in the past. The barricades on the way to a normal work have not been entirely removed, however, they do not appeal to anybody any more," underlined Satarov.

The democratic society on the way to formation can propose quite unusual "scenarios," said Satarov. For example, there may be situations when such forces as the president, parliament, and government will be forced to bar by some other means than earlier. [sentence as

received] For example, the president and Duma will be forced to oppose the government on several issues, said Satarov.

Satarov also reported that in the near term the State Duma would receive a package of bills, 50 in number, which Boris Yeltsin proposes to consider in the parliament's lower chamber this year. As he said, these documents can be divided into three blocks.

The first one is connected with the continuation of the juridical reform and includes the Civil and Criminal Codes, several decrees on labor, magistrates, etc. The "economic" block is devoted to the bank system, to problems of securities, exchanges, and audits. The third package of documents concerns measures connected with building of a democratic society and, in particular, with legislature on political parties.

The president offers to the State Duma not only the list but the priority to consider these documents, explained Satarov. In the first block Yeltsin draws attention of deputies to the need to consider the Civil Code and legislative initiatives closely related to crime fighting.

Satarov said that among priority problems of the economic reform Yeltsin enumerates a package of acts connected with reformation of the bank activity and creation of Federal reserve system.

"If we could judge from the sharpness of debates to be waged around the contents of the third package, the draft decree on political parties will obviously become the central one," believes Satarov. Uncontrolled growth of parties, peculiar to Russia, becomes "a destabilizing factor in the life of the society," he said. The lawmaking itself should stimulate such a development of multiparty trends which will channel the process along the way of formation of a small number of strong parties, said Satarov.

Yeltsin Establishes Information Department

LD0403192394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849
GMT 4 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—A Department of Information Provision will be set up under the presidential administration on today's decree of President Yeltsin, the presidential press service reports.

The department will provide for timely and objective informing Russian and foreign citizens of the Russian state policy, activities of the Russian president and his administration, major developments and their estimation.

Under the decree, the department will have the following tasks:

- provision of mass media bodies with objective and reliable materials on policy of the president and the government, major social, economic and political problems in reforms of Russian society and measures taken for their settlement;

- assistance to mass media bodies in broad circulation of forecasts of Russian developments in accordance with resolutions of Russian state power bodies;

- mass media coverage of arrangements taken for the implementation of purpose-oriented programs on major social and economic issues as well as Russian political processes.

Petr Filippov has been nominated head of the new department.

Filatov Discusses Self-Government Edict, Coup Plotters

LD0603174094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1708
GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] The head of the Russian presidential administration Sergey Filatov stated on Sunday that the president is expected to issue within a few days a decree regarding the formation of local self-government bodies.

Speaking to journalists, he noted that the document will take into account all recommendations of the presidential public chamber approved three weeks ago. These recommendations suggest extending election campaign in regions until June and not holding elections to local self-government bodies until the preparation of a corresponding legislative basis at the federal and regional levels.

Filatov pointed out that "the elections should not stick to a certain date and the issue of fixing it can be submitted to local governments".

Asked by IF's correspondent, the head of the administration said that the memorandum on civil accord, the need for which Boris Yeltsin stressed at an expanded meeting of the government last Friday can take a shape of a broad agreement between "the power, influential socio-political parties, entrepreneurs and trade unions".

In Filatov's opinion, the agreement could include the government's commitment to fight inflation, entrepreneurs' pledge to control growth of prices and trade unions' obligation to control strikes.

The head of the administration believes that such an agreement would considerably stabilize the situation by the beginning of the presidential election campaign in 1996. A working group for its preparation will be formed soon.

Filatov explained that warning the coup plotters amnestied by the resolution of the State Duma about their arrest in case of a new attempt to destabilize the situation in the country, the president did not mean a ban on any political activities. According to Filatov, the amnestied have the full right to such activities in civilized forms, including the right to be elected to the State Duma.

"If they start again to call for the ouster of the legitimate power at rallies, they will be punished", Filatov said.

Zhirinovskiy Denies Rumor of Split in Party

LD0503184694 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1535
GMT 5 Mar 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow March 5 TASS—"Allegations about a split in the ranks of the Liberal Democratic Party are groundless," party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said.

Speaking at a meeting with his constituents near the Sokolniki metro station, northeast of Moscow, on Saturday, Zhirinovskiy praised the party faction in the parliament for supporting the resolution on amnesty which has released the leaders of the October 1993 revolt in Moscow from prison. He also said that two months of his party's activity in the parliament have resulted in "certain changes" in Russia's foreign policy with regard to Serbs.

He expressed the confidence that "the revived military-industrial complex of Russia can bring the country fantastic profits through selling weapons on the world market." The only thing Russia needs is "to learn how to trade" properly, he added.

Shakhray Favors Fund To Prevent Interethnic Conflict

LD0403193494 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1624
GMT 4 Mar 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondents Oleg Velichko and Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—Russian Minister for Affairs of Nationalities and Regional Policy Sergey Shakhray told an expanded government meeting here today money from the federal budget should be used to prevent inter-ethnic conflicts and not to settle them.

He reminded the meeting participants that the Ossetian-Ingush conflict alone required some 100 billion rubles in 1993.

Speaking of the division of powers between the center and regions, Shakhray said his ministry is preparing a treaty with the Kaliningrad region. However, he noted equality of regions does not mean their automatic identity. Some 60 per cent of federation subjects live on allocations. "Bearing this in mind, similar treaties with Russian territories will be elaborated," he said.

In the words of Shakhray, some 7,300,000,000 rubles worth of a fund will be formed to support northern areas. The money will be taken from the federal budget to help the delivery of prime necessities. A number of northern cities, including Norilsk, will be temporarily closed.

Stepashin Views Future of Counterintelligence Service

LD0503215994 Moscow *Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian* 1800 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Interview with Sergey Stepashin, new head of Russian Counterintelligence Service, by unidentified correspondent, place and date not given—from the "Novosti" newscast; recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] It is said that either your service will be completely abolished, or you will be forced to surrender some of your very important units to, say, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

[Stepashin] I will not take part in that, that's clear, and I'll tell you straight that the special services will not go through another such perestroyka or katastroyka [pun on katastrofa, catastrophe]. I would like to stress once again—this is very important for those who hear me, for our colleagues—there will be no such perestroykas. But clearly, we should try and prove our importance and constantly say that we're necessary and important, not only and perhaps not so much by public statements, but by concrete actions and putting things into effect. I think you'll hear about many of them in March.

[Correspondent] Last week there was a meeting of the Security Council, and by all accounts you were given certain specific instructions for fighting corruption at the top levels of power. Could you reveal more specifically what kind of instructions these are, and is corruption really so strong that it has to be fought?

[Stepashin] It's always necessary to fight it. Specific instructions were indeed given there for the organs of counterintelligence to wage a determined fight not only against corruption at the top levels of state power, which you asked about, but also against banditry. By the way, we already have a number of very serious things projected and implemented in these terms, especially for St. Petersburg.

[Correspondent] In this regard, how will you cooperate with Primakov's department?

[Stepashin] Just as before. By the way, we have a very good level of cooperation, especially in terms of intelligence from the territories. We are developing a general strategy. I would draw your attention to some of the things we have done recently. We have agreed to hold a joint meeting this month with Boris Nikolayevich—that is, our service, the intelligence service, the Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff, Starovoytov of the Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information, and the border troops—in order to reach agreement on closer cooperation, together with the national security adviser, and to create, if you like, a kind of prototype intelligence community.

'State of Emergency' Readied for Crackdown on Crime

PM0603113194 Moscow *KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian* 6 Mar 94 p 1

["Own information" report: "People Are Saying That...Russia Is Again Preparing for State of Emergency"]

[Text] As has already been reported, last Thursday Russia's Security Council approved a federal program to combat crime. From reliable sources it has become known that the Russian Federation's Ministry of Internal Affairs has sent a secret circular to the provinces which contains the instruction "to prepare for the suppression (!) of crime

in conditions of a state of emergency." According to certain information, similar documents have been drafted in all power structures.

Professional criminologists questioned by a KOMSO-MOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent assure us that formulations like "suppression of crime" [podavleniye prestupnosti] have not been encountered in official papers since wartime. In the opinion of those people we talked with, the next few days should see a number of legislative initiatives designed to provide a legal foundation for emergency measures.

Media Issues

Proposal Made for State Sponsorship of TV, Radio

LD0403210994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935
GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The Russian Communications Ministry has prepared a draft government resolution granting Russia's TV and radio companies an order for broadcasting state-sponsored programs at the expense of the federal budget allocations set aside for this purpose and taking into account the indexation of the rates, the chairman of the executive committee of the communications sector workers' union, Anatoliy Nazeykin, told Interfax today.

Nazeykin said the draft resolution submitted for consideration by First Vice Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets envisions allocating funds to TV and radio broadcasting companies for them to prepare programs and communications enterprises for their distribution services.

According to the document, TV and broadcasting companies will have to remove commercials from the state air time. They will be broadcast at other time at commercial prices. Re-selling air time is expected to be prohibited.

Nazeykin said it still remained unknown whether the document will be approved by the government.

As for the state's debt to communications sector workers worth 65.9 Bn [Billion] rubles which made them cut down air time in many regions of Russia on February 10, the money has been paid out, according to Nazeykin.

Russian TV Officials Foresee Broadcasting Cuts

LD0503203194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Video report by A. Peslyak including recorded interviews with S. Lozhkin, deputy director general of Russian State Television and Radio Company, and A. Lysenko, general director of Russian State Television and Radio Company, outside the Finance Ministry in Moscow, date not given—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Peslyak] Being decided in this building today is the question of whether Russian Television will continue to exist; whether you will watch us or not, and whether we know you are watching us.

[Lozhkin] No meeting with the heads of the Ministry of Finance took place, but according to the information we have received, the Finance Ministry's position remained unchanged. It will meet about one quarter of the 1994 finance needs of Russian television and radio.

[Peslyak] According to Anatoliy Lysenko, as a result only news and childrens' programs will be left, along with a few things on health and for pensioners, nothing more. No films or shows!

[Lysenko] The destruction of Russian radio and television, which comrade Anpilov and DEN have spoken so much about, is indeed taking place.

[Peslyak] We are talking about Russian Television, but is the First Channel involved here too? What will happen to Ostankino?

[Lysenko] Exactly the same, just the same! I talked to Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev today. Broadcasting there is, altogether...[pauses] Well, we'll just have to get used to two hours or an hour of television at a time, which will be exclusively information.

[Peslyak] The practice of lobbying exists all over the world, and there are powerful lobbyists in Russia, too—agro-industrial lobbyists, lobbyists from the military industrial complex, and from defense. We, though, are hoping for help from millions of television viewers and radio listeners: They can influence deputies and the government.

TV Chief Views Funding Cuts

MK0503134194 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 13

[Natalya Osipova report: "Television Funding Cut. Unlike the Government, Oleg Poptsov Still Holds Television Dear"]

[Text] Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the Russian Television Company, told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent yesterday about his vision of the new situation in the electronic media that emerged after the budget financing of television companies was slashed nearly four-fold against the requisite level.

Television and radio company chiefs were invited to attend yesterday's government meeting. According to Oleg Poptsov, President Yeltsin dwelled on the electronic media in his address. His statement was in line with the ambiguous stance he expressed in his message to the Federal Assembly on 24 February: The state is no longer able to finance television and radio companies, but it is "important to make sure that Russia's information space is not torn apart and divided in the course of practical steps. A state television and radio channel must be preserved."

The financial support the state is able to give the mass media this year, however, will hardly be enough to preserve the "information space." For instance, under a tentative agreement with the Finance Ministry, the "Ostankino" State Television and Radio Company could

receive no more than 653 billion rubles [R] for 1994 instead of the R1.2 trillion it had requested. The Russian Television and Radio Company received R471 billion instead of the requested R910 billion. But now the initial two-fold cut has turned out to be four-fold. The Finance Ministry is going to appropriate only R679 billion for the federal companies, including "Ostankino," the Russian Television and Radio Company, and local television and radio companies.

In Mr. Poptsov's view, these cuts in government subsidies show that the government's "mechanism of assessing priorities is out of balance," and if the authorities do not see the mass media as a priority, "the cabinet must have lost either its hearing or its eyesight. Russia is still governed by the word, which alone can say if there are deeds in Russia or not."

Mr. Poptsov said that he did not oppose joint-stock television companies, but he thinks that an across-the-board conversion into joint-stock companies is contraindicated for Russian television groups. At any rate, in his opinion, the state should not quit the game so obviously. "It is possible," Mr. Poptsov noted, "that a lobby pursuing the interests of commercial businesses is trying to clear the 'television field' for a large-scale penetration. Naturally, the four-fold decrease in financing (and, hence, in air time) will mean that the volume of information on the government will be slashed proportionately: Why should we sacrifice movies or other programs that hold much greater interest for viewers."

Economic Issues

Gaydar Notes Discrepancies in Economic Figures

LD0403213594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935
GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Yegor Gaydar, leader of the State Duma faction Russia's Choice, believes that there are "substantial discrepancies between those numbers mentioned by the Russian president in his address to the Federal Assembly on February 24 and numbers voiced by the prime minister at the extended sitting of the government on March 4."

"This contradictions concern the inflation's reference-points, the key aspect of the 1994 economic policy; the thing is that they are not of a quantitative but of a qualitative nature," he underlined during his conversation with journalists on Friday.

According to Gaydar, the presidential address "lays hope at least for a relative opportunity to reach monetary stability this year, it gives hope to stabilize volumes of production and create premises for its further growth;" at the same time the analysis of the budget submitted by the government "leaves no hopes for this."

Speaking about prospects of the budget's consideration in the State Duma, Gaydar said that "he is absolutely convinced that the branch ministers will themselves, or via their representatives in parliamentary committees, urge to increase appropriations for all possible articles." "I am

afraid that this will result in a proposal to increase the budget deficit to 20-30 Tn rubles," he said.

As far as Russia's Choice faction is concerned, it will not back the budget during its discussion in the Duma if "serious corrections in the structure and volume of expenditures" primarily aimed at "lowering of the general level of state pressure on the budget" are not introduced into it," said Gaydar.

Responding to Interfax, Gaydar said that even after the government's program is made public it will be hard for him to make any political prognosis for 1994. "A political prognosis, as well as an economic one, does not depend upon public speeches but upon concrete economic decision. Decisions adopted by the government even during the last few days surprisingly contradict to each other," said Gaydar.

Gerashchenko Favors Controlled Inflation Over Recession

LD0403211294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1609
GMT 4 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Oleg Velichko, Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS— Controlled inflation is better than production recession, head of the Russian Central Bank Viktor Gerashchenko told today an expanded government meeting.

Gerashchenko criticized "the policy of economic stabilization through lower inflation favored by the Ministry of Finance". He also against [as received] a policy of financial encouragement of all productions. "This will not lead to long-term stabilization with the subsequent production boom but result in even greater inflation", he said.

Gerashchenko dwelt on major economic indices of 1993. In his opinion, "the most viable sector of the reformed economy is, paradoxically, the agro-industrial complex". In his words, the agricultural production recession was only four per cent in 1993, which is only 87 per cent of 1990.

Speaking of the activities of commercial banks, the bank chairman noted their "passiveness due to the uncertainty in which branches to invest". The bank chairman actually admitted the government has insufficiently elaborated the industrial policy.

Gaydar Criticizes Gerashchenko Remarks

LD0403211994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1846
GMT 4 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—A statement of Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko that "controlled inflation is better than large-scale unemployment" is a false dilemma, Director of the Institute of Transitional Economy Yegor Gaydar told ITAR-TASS here today.

In his opinion, unemployment can be kept in check for two-five months with higher inflation and monetary injections, but this course has no long-term prospects.

"If the economy is not stable and there is no stable money, unemployment will increase anyway and we will have an unpleasant combination of jobless and high inflation," said Gaydar.

Speaking of the draft budget, he noted the difference between the message's indices and the ones named today by the prime minister. In his opinion, the main difference is approaches to the inflation—a key aspect of the 1994 economic policy. They are rather qualitative than quantitative. The presidential message inspires hope for an economic breakthrough and stability and the government indices are not optimistic.

The budget deficit is estimated at approximately 10.2 per cent of the gross domestic product, the level of 1993, which means the inflation will not decrease.

Gaydar personally would not vote for the document until certain changes are introduced in its spending section. The draft provides for doubled spending on the state machinery and the military-industrial complex simultaneously with the reduced social spending.

PRAVDA Views Chernomyrdin Report on Economy

PM0703125994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Boris Slavin: "One Must Not Look Down on the People"]

[Text] These words, directed against the activity of Gaydar and his government team, were uttered yesterday by Viktor Chernomyrdin at an enlarged session of the Russian Cabinet of Ministers. What did these words imply? Was he totally dissociating himself from those responsible for the "shock therapy" or just gently criticizing them?

Although appearing radical, Chernomyrdin's speech only went halfway. On the one hand, there was the apparent intention to strengthen Russian statehood and create conditions for economic, political, and social stability in society. On the other hand, the premier does not see any grounds or any potential "for radically changing the course" mapped out last August. But what about the fact that the people voted against the former policy of reforms, which led to impoverishment and the collapse of the economy? There was no clear answer to this question in Chernomyrdin's report.

The government head is trying to justify his moderately tough financial policy in 1993, although he is perfectly well aware that the temporary slowing of the inflation rate was artificial and was due not to production growth but to the delayed payment of workers' and employees' wages, reduced credit opportunities for enterprises, and artificial unemployment. January showed that inflation is rising rather than falling.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, while criticizing the monetarists, is nonetheless not seeking a solution via the proven models of economic development in China, Japan, South Korea, and so on. He is trying to find a happy medium between Gaydar's monetarist experiments and the former party apparatchiks' administrative methods of management. Hence the desire to combine liberalization of prices and foreign trade with stronger state power and the establishment of order and discipline.

Of course, the government's desire to orient the reforms toward the people and eliminate the main sources of their discontent can only be welcomed. But how is all this to be done? That is the question. But the measures proposed by the prime minister will not be welcomed by the critically minded reader. It is still totally unclear why, for example, agricultural subsidies, which are granted in all developed countries, "will pose a threat to other sectors of the economy" here, according to Chernomyrdin.

Similar contradictions are to be encountered throughout the prime minister's report. For example, how can you reduce the budget deficit and at the same time increase investments in industry, combat mass unemployment, and close industrial enterprises that have not performed from the monetarist viewpoint? Of course, it is a good thing that war and labor veterans' pensions are to be increased. But what about current science and culture, education, and medicine? Judging by the report, the government will not get round to them.

The premier gave assurances that there will be no economic and social catastrophe this year, that stabilization is in the offing. We would like to believe it, but, unfortunately, the report provided no substantial evidence of this. The one thing the report did make clear was that our president is alive and well and neither the former laboratory head nor the current prime minister should aim to supplant him. You will agree that this is not enough for the country's future, for general accord, or for democracy.

Economic Advisor Briefs Press on Cabinet Session

MK0503090094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 2

[Yelena Tregubova report under the "Debates" rubric: "Aleksandr Lifshits Promises No Price and Wage Freeze. Sectoral Ministers Will Get Economic Freedom Instead of Money"]

[Text] Aleksandr Lifshits, head of the Russian Federation president's economic experts group, one of the writers of the presidential message, stressed in his press conference yesterday that Viktor Chernomyrdin's speech at the Council of Ministers enlarged session "was fully proceeding along the channel of the presidential message as regards all the postulates and priorities." Lifshits told about "signals" attesting to "a great degree of understanding by State Duma deputies of the new economic program," announced by the president and the premier.

Saying this, Aleksandr Lifshits, however, vouched: "According to my lights...prices and wages are not supposed to be frozen," something most people in the Duma talk about as a fact decided on by Chernomyrdin's government. "I have seen all the recent government documents—there are definitely no such things in there," Lifshits said. In the meantime he recognized that "in the government apparatus, there are such top-class artists that there already exist several various projects for freezing prices." Lifshits termed their implementation as "madness owing to their being impossible to carry out technically—they will pull the wool over your eyes but nothing will come of it all the same."

Besides, Lifshits hopes the government will not cave in to "the pressure of local commodity producers" who demand protection from foreign goods "by such crude methods as colossal customs tariffs."

The experts group head also expressed the hope that "the budget will still not be made to provide for a 12-15 percent deficit." He affirmed that these figures were named in the Council of Ministers presidium session where the budget was discussed.

Sectoral ministers "who, one by one, clamored for money in that session and stated: cut down on funds for anyone else but me, while they irritably motioned to a grinning Andrey Kokoshin [first deputy defense minister]," according to Lifshits were not "a sight for nervous folks." Lifshits believes that one can only hope that during the week the government "revises" the budget, it will make up its mind to "give, instead of money (which is not there), economic freedom, which still does not exist."

Soskovets Says Working Staff Cannot Own Enterprises

LD0403210494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Russia's First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets declared that the transfer of management functions to regions should be well balanced because as many as 60% of Russia's territories use various forms of state subsidies. He declared about this at the press conference held on Friday evening in Moscow. As he said, subventions to territories "represent the greatest problem today."

He also pointed out that due to privatization which is being implemented in a wrong way, currently "many important enterprises have appeared without a real owner." "A working staff cannot be an owner," emphasized Soskovets and said that respect towards working staffs should be demonstrated in timely issuance of wages and several other measures but not in the transfer of enterprises to them.

Soskovets laid great hope for the second stage of the privatization which, as he said, "will help to remove many problems" by means of organizing large investment funds for industry.

Soskovets mentioned defense, state borders guarding, and security of domestic producer as the major functions to be

preserved by the state. "This security is an extremely important measure which has been unjustly forgotten," said he.

Military Issues

Kokoshin Argues Defense Expenditures Not Waste of Money

LD0403172694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 4 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—Defence expenditures is no shredding of taxpayers' money into stockpiles of weapons, First Deputy Defence Minister Andrey Kokoshin said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Friday.

He noted that "social appropriations are now responsible for 70 per cent of the entire defence budget". According to the deputy minister, whole cities which mushroomed next to munitions factories, are maintained at the expense of the defence order.

Kokoshin stressed that "the intention of the Finance Ministry to cut considerably the defence order this year may result in a collapse of key defence industries and will negatively tell on the fate of 15 million people".

In Kokoshin's opinion, even the present defence order "is below the requirements of the Armed Forces".

He underlined that the Defence Ministry is guided by the need to preserve the main high-tech industries. The deputy minister "had in mind industries manufacturing both military products and civil technologies.

He pointed to the need for enlisting investments in the defence complex from the non-state sector. "We need major enterprises and industrial-financial groups. In future, many types of weapons can be financed with inner funds," he explained.

Kokoshin also noted that cuts for defence "can negatively tell on the export of Russian weaponry". In his opinion, "the difficult position at our enterprises will undermine Russian export positions".

Kokoshin Views Army's Role, Budget Needs

LD0603184094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Mar 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin believes that insufficient understanding of the importance of the needs of the Army and of its role in society today is the key to the conflict between the Finance Ministry and the Defense Ministry over the budget. Kokoshin believes that, on the one hand, a decreased defense order may bring about the collapse of major manufacturers of defense products and negatively affect the 15 million people employed by the military industrial complex. On the other

hand, a strong army is a guarantor of success in implementing economic and political reforms today. Though we do not have any external enemies any longer, the Armed Forces now have a direct effect—albeit not immediately obvious for ordinary people—on the social and economic situation in the country by preserving a certain, though fragile, balance in local conflicts in Tajikistan and the Caucasian region.

[Begin Kokoshin recording] There is a danger of these conflicts expanding and getting out of control, of their gradual transformation into large-scale wars. Of course, the intensity may vary at different stages, but they would have the most negative effect on the internal stability in Russia. Should we fail to keep in check the situation in those countries, imagine what would happen if Russia were flooded by millions of refugees. [end recording]

Kokoshin asserts that the Defense Ministry is not being excessive in its demands, asking only for those resources that would ensure the healthy operation of the Armed Forces and the fulfillment of the defense order that has already been approved. Incidentally, 70 percent of the expenditures are being allocated for social needs. Social unrest among the military may upset stability of the state itself.

Concept for Chemical Weapons Destruction Finalized

LD0603155094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1240 GMT 5 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Mar—Russia has completed work on elaborating the concept of the destruction of toxic chemical agents. The elimination of chemical weapons will start after parliament has ratified the international convention on the destruction of chemical weapons, signed in January 1993, Colonel Viktor Kholstov, doctor of chemistry and deputy chief of the radiation, chemical, and biological protection troops, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent. He said that the convention may come into force from January 1995 if 65 world states sign and ratify it before this July.

According to this document, a signatory undertakes not to carry out any new development. Viktor Kholstov stated that chemical weapons are not being destroyed anywhere yet. All agents are in special arsenals, are well guarded, and do not represent a threat to the environment. If munitions become defective, V. Kholstov continued, Russia has a unique unit that makes it possible to neutralize them. This unit is without parallel and was inspected by 40 world delegations who saw for themselves how reliable it is.

As far as a national program for the elimination of chemical weapons is concerned, in Viktor Kholstov's opinion, it is necessary both for the adoption of political decisions and to substantiate financial outlays.

After the convention is ratified, the state is obliged to completely destroy over 10 years all chemical weapons on its territory, Colonel Kholstov said. This requires special

facilities and specific financing. Such a draft program was drawn up while the USSR still existed, but the implementation of the measures it prescribed was thwarted for various reasons. For instance, the facility built near Chapayevsk was not made operational due to mass protests from the population, which was deliberately misinformed by certain groupings for their own ends.

The program was taken up again in 1992 after Boris Yeltsin stated that Russia had inherited earlier disarmament commitments.

Around two dozen ministries and departments and several hundred specialists have been involved in drawing up the new version of the program. The government has allocated resources for testing the technology, and Russian and American scientists and engineers inspected the Chapayevsk facility near Samara for safety.

Authoritative commissions of experts assessed the facility highly and recommended that similar facilities be set up in other regions of the country.

In reply to a question by the ITAR-TASS correspondent as to whether new types of chemical weapons were being developed, Viktor Kholstov said that nobody would be so brave as to assert that no such work was being undertaken abroad. "Russia is not violating international agreements, but the strengthening of national security lies within its scope just as it does in any sovereign, self-respecting state."

Federal Assembly

'Text' of Yeltsin's Letter to Rybkin on Laws

LD0603213294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent a letter to State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin containing a list of draft laws that the president plans to submit the State Duma of the Federal Assembly in 1994.

Here follows the text of Yeltsin's letter to Rybkin, as well as the list of the aforementioned draft laws:

Moscow, Kremlin, 6 March 1994. To State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin:

I am sending you a list of draft laws that I intend to submit for approval to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly in 1994, in accordance with Article 104 of the Russian Constitution.

In the first half of the year, I will introduce draft laws regulating the procedure for setting up and organizing the activity of bodies of state power of the Russian Federation, and primarily aimed at creating a normal, civilized judicial system in Russia (on the judicial system in the Russian Federation, on the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, on the procuracy in the Russian Federation, on the Government of the Russian Federation, on federal bodies of the executive power, on the federal state apparatus and others). In addition to this, in the first half of 1994, I will also prepare draft laws on

general principles of state administration in Russia's constituent parts, as well as on general principles of local government. At the same time, I am planning to submit to the State Duma draft laws on the Civil, Criminal, and Land Codes, as well as some economic laws.

During the second half of 1994, I am planning to submit draft laws aimed at ensuring citizens' economic and political rights (on forced migrants and refugees from areas of interethnic conflicts, on ethnic minorities, on protection of rights of the unemployed, on public events, on political parties, on the elections of the president of the Russian Federation and of the State Duma deputies, on the procedure for setting up the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly, on public associations and others).

The attached list is not a final one, and some draft laws presently being worked on may be added to it.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation
[passage omitted]

Yeltsin Sends Duma List of Bills for 1994

LD0603211094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1716
GMT 6 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 6 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a message to State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin with a list of bills the president intended to submit for the lower house's consideration in 1994.

The bills to be moved in the first half of 1994 include draft laws to regulate procedures for creation and functioning of Russia's bodies of state government, with a special emphasis laid on formation of an effective and civilized judicial system in the country (draft laws on judicial system in the Russian Federation, on the Constitutional Court and Supreme Court, on prosecutor's office and others).

Apart from this, a number of bills will be prepared on general principles of state administration in Russia's constituent republics and regions, as well as on general principles of local government. The drafts of a civil, criminal and land codes, as well as some economic bills are also expected to be submitted in the first half of this year.

The bills to be moved in the second half of 1994 include draft laws to ensure citizens' economic and political rights (on forced migration and refugees from zones of interethnic conflicts, on national minorities, on political parties, on presidential and parliamentary elections and others).

The list of bills may be supplemented with more draft laws which are presently worked out.

List of Bills To Be Submitted by Russian President Boris Yeltsin for the

State Duma's Consideration in 1994:

1. On the judicial system of the Russian Federation.

2. On the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation.

3. On the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation.

4. On prosecutor's offices of the Russian Federation.

5. On the government of the Russian Federation.

6. On federal bodies of executive power.

7. On principles of delimitation of jurisdiction and delegation of powers between federal bodies of state government and bodies of state government in the subjects of the Russian Federation.

8. On general principles of organization of state power in the Russian Federation.

9. On a procedure for passing federal constitutional laws and federal laws, and their coming into force.

10. On a procedure for Russian citizens' leaving and entering the Russian Federation.

11. On national security.

12. The civil code of the Russian Federation.

13. The criminal code of the Russian Federation.

14. The criminal process code of the Russian Federation.

15. The administrative code of the Russian Federation.

16. The land code of the Russian Federation.

17. The housing code of the Russian Federation.

18. The code of labour laws of the Russian Federation.

19. On general principles of local government in the Russian Federation.

20. On international treaties of the Russian Federation.

21. On federal public service.

22. On appealing against actions by bodies of state government and officials.

23. On fighting organized crime.

24. On the right for information.

25. On the state borders of the Russian Federation.

26. On amendments and additions to the law of the Russian Federation "On Defence" and the law of the Russian Federation "On Universal Military Service".

27. On involvement of Russian military units in peace-keeping missions.

28. On exports of arms and military equipment.

29. On amendments and additions to the law of the RSFSR "On Competition and Restrictions on Monopolist Activities on Commodity Markets".

30. On auditing.

31. On securities and stock exchanges.

32. On the banking system of the Russian Federation.
33. In investment banks in the Russian Federation.
34. On concessions and agreements on division of products.
35. On protection of witnesses, victims and other persons involved in criminal proceedings.
36. On the bar.
37. On justices of the peace.
38. On administrative justice.
39. On the legal status of foreign citizens in the Russian Federation.
40. On forced migration and refugees from zones of inter-ethnic conflicts.
41. On national minorities.
42. On guarantees for temporarily jobless and unemployed.
43. On public actions in the Russian Federation.
44. On political parties.
45. On elections of the president of the Russian Federation.
46. On a procedure for forming the Federal Assembly's Federation Council.
47. On elections to the Federal Assembly's State Duma.
48. On public associations in the Russian Federation.
49. On non-profit organizations.
50. On charitable foundations and charitable organizations.
51. On social adaptation of people released from penitentiary facilities.
52. On insurance.
53. On the state emblem of the Russian Federation.
54. On the state flag of the Russian Federation.

Regional Affairs

Zhirinovskiy To Appeal Election Disqualification

LD0503100894 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 0936 GMT 5 Mar 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Mar—On 9 March, after the holiday, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy intends to submit an appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision of the Shchelkovo Rayon court which declared invalid the elections to the State Duma for that constituency. The *ITAR-TASS* correspondent learned this from Aleksey Churilov, assistant to the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia

[LDPR] parliamentary grouping. Let us recall that the ten-day period allowed by law for the submission of appeals expires on 9 March and after this the court decision comes into force.

When asked how Vladimir Zhirinovskiy had reacted to the decision to deprive him of his deputy's mandate, the LDPR leader's assistant replied: "negatively".

President Dismisses Government of Ingushetia

LD0603173994 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1708 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] The Congress of Peoples of Ingushetia, a republic in Russia's North Caucasus, on Sunday qualified the performance of the republic's government as unsatisfactory. The government, dismissed by decree of President Ruslan Aushev as of March 6, will remain in office until parliament takes a final decision.

The Congress passed a resolution which says recent reelection of Aushev as president of Ingushetia showed that the people approved of his internal and foreign policy. Aushev himself, in a message to the congress, described the presidential and parliamentary elections and referendum on the republic's constitution, all held on February 27, as an historic step towards Ingushetia's revival as a state.

Yeltsin Apologizes To Balkars on Anniversary

LD0703111694 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 0959 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, 7 Mar (*ITAR-TASS*)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent a message to the Balkar people in connection with the sad anniversary of their forced resettlement. On the solemn 50th anniversary of the forced resettlement of the Balkars, the text of the message circulated today reads: "I bow my head low to the memory of those who died an untimely death in exile and express my sincere sympathy and condolences to their families and friends."

As president of the Russian Federation, the message continues, "I offer my apologies for the injustice committed."

Balkar Minister Welcomes Decree

LD0603165894 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1517 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] President Yeltsin's decree issued earlier this week provides guarantees for complete rehabilitation of the Balkarian people [Kabardino-Balkar Republic], Balkarian social security minister Boris Zamakulov said.

Under the decree, each victim is entitled to a lump sum in compensation money equivalent to 100 minimal wages in the first stage. The federal government is expected to raise Rbl [rubles] 27 Bn to this end.

"Generally speaking, no indemnity can compensate the losses sustained by the Balkarian people. The question is one of partial compensation as an indication of full rehabilitation of the people falling victim to purges",

Zamakulov said. In his words, any delay of the process will cause a negative response on the ground.

Zamakulov also insists that one-time benefits be paid not only to the victims themselves, but also to their family members including their children born in places of resettlement.

Edict Rehabilitates Balkarians

LD0403174294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1711 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, 3 Mar—Today President B. N. Yeltsin issued an edict "On rehabilitating the Balkar people and on state support for its revival and development."

Below is the text:

With the aim of amending a past injustice and reversing the consequences of the illegal deportation of the Balkar people and of the violations of their rights, with the aim of implementing the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic] Law "On rehabilitating repressed peoples," I decree:

1. That the proposal of the bodies of state power in the Kabardino-Balkaria Republic on adopting a package of measures to amend a past injustice, promote the political, social, and spiritual revival of the Balkar people and restore the rights of citizens who were illegally deported and who suffered political repression on ethnic and other grounds, be supported.

2. That the Russian Federation Government, in accordance with the RSFSR Law "On the rehabilitation of repressed peoples" and along with the bodies of state power in the Kabardino-Balkaria Republic:

help revive and develop the spiritual and cultural heritage of the Balkar people, its handicrafts and traditional trades, help restore the former, historical names of populated centers and localities;

agree upon a package of measures with the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the government of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan for the return of Balkarians to the Russian Federation and their resettlement;

give practical assistance in settling Balkarians, in allocating plots of land, in helping ethnic Balkarians who have suffered illegal deportation and who return on their own to their original place of abode start up again, in resolving other issues concerning the social and economic development of the Balkar people and their ethnic and cultural revival;

examine before 1 June 1994 the proposals of the Kabardino-Balkaria Republic on possibly granting special pensions to individuals belonging to repressed peoples and on presenting the Federal Assembly with a draft law on amendments and additions to the RSFSR Law "On state pensions in the RSFSR," in accordance with standard procedure;

work out a program for the social and economic development of the Balkar people and their ethnic-cultural revival before 1 July 1994;

examine the question of allocating funds to finance extraordinary grants for ethnic Balkarians who have suffered illegal deportation and for the members of their families, including children born in the special settlements to which the families had been deported;

determine how these measures will be financed.

3. That the Russian Federation Central Bank, together with the bodies of state power in the Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, be advised to examine the question of allocating favorable credits to the republic in 1994 for building individual accommodation for Balkar nationals who have suffered illegal deportation.

4. The edict comes into force from the moment it is signed.

Opposition Leader Calls for National Accord

LD0603203494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2019 GMT 6 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Grozny March 6 TASS—Yaragiy Mamodayev, a Chechen opposition leader and head of the dissolved "government of popular trust," views reports on alleged plans for toppling the regime of current President Dzhokhar Dudayev as acts of provocations aiming to finally crush Chechnya's constructive opposition.

He told TASS over the phone on Sunday these rumours were heavily aggravating the already tense situation in the North Caucasian republic, while petty political intrigues by various groups and groupings claiming to be Chechen opposition hampered the movement towards achieving national accord in society.

41-year-old Mamodayev is one of Dudayev's major political opponents, who was accused by the Chechen prosecutor's office of "high treason and attempted violent overthrow of the existing regime."

But Mamodayev flatly rejects use of force in settling political issues. "To avoid self-extinction of the Chechen people, all its representatives, both those in power and those in opposition, should immediately agree to the only possible way of saving the republic: To step down simultaneously and call new democratic elections," the opposition leader proposed. The accord thus achieved might lay the foundation for building Chechnya's relations with Russia, he believes.

Dudayev Doubts Khasbulatov Will Join Opposition

LD0603163994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1517 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] President Dzhokhar Dudayev of the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya said he doubted that ex-speaker of the former Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov would join the opposition in Chechnya, where has come to live after being amnestied by new parliament.

"Ruslan Khasbulatov is a figure who has some real weight in the Russian political scene, and it is hardly possible that he will join any of the criminal elements," Dudayev told Interfax.

The president said there was today no opposition in Chechnya. There are only "ordinary groups of bandits, who seek to take control of the situation under the pretense of carrying on a political struggle," he said. The republic's State Department has listed 30 opposition leaders to be arrested.

Dudayev said his government knew nothing about any attempts of the opposition to draw Khasbulatov, who is at present living with his mother in the village of Tolstoy-Yurt, into their ranks.

Asked about the possibility of cooperation between Chechnya's leadership and Khasbulatov, who was arrested last October as one of the organizers of the hardline revolt in Moscow, the president said: "We are not in a position to say anything about that, because it is Khasbulatov's private matter."

More on Leaders' View of Khasbulatov

*MK0503132994 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
5 Mar 94 p 3*

[Natalya Gorodetskaya, Vladimir Todres report in the "North Caucasus" column: "Chechnya Welcomes Its Hero"]

[Excerpt] On 11 March the State Duma will discuss the situation in Chechnya. Sergey Shakhrai is expected to make a report. His position is well known: Chechnya can be de facto brought back into the Russian Federation by concluding a treaty with it based on the Russian-Tatarstan agreement. An obligatory condition for the start of negotiations, however, must be free elections in Chechnya—with the participation of the anti-Dudayev opposition.

At present, according to the minister, "not a single political force controls the situation in the republic" and therefore there is simply no one to come to terms with. Yet even if elections are held, this will hardly make things easier for Russia: according to local observers, none of the local

politicians can match Dzhokhar Dudayev's authority. No one—except Ruslan Khasbulatov, who has returned to his mother's home.

In spite of the fact that on 15 September 1991 Ruslan Khasbulatov, who was then chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, blessed Dzhokhar Dudayev to lead the Chechen Republic, now the ungrateful Chechen leader is in no hurry to meet him. As Chechnya Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev told INTERFAX, no official meetings have been planned with the former speaker of the Russian parliament, but if Mr. Khasbulatov insists, such meetings could be arranged. Furthermore the vice president was rather skeptical over the prospect of Ruslan Khasbulatov's working in Chechnya as an economist: "He has never dealt with economics. It is another matter that he has studied the political economy of the West, but these are quite different things." In his opinion, the former Russian Federation Supreme Soviet speaker will not engage in politics, let alone join the Chechen opposition. [passage omitted]

Chechen Leader Comments on Amnesty

*LD0503173094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620
GMT 5 Mar 94*

[Text] Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev suggested that confrontation and instability will increase in Russia after the State Duma's resolution on amnesty. He said in an interview with Interfax on Saturday that the president's chair will be under siege. According to Dudayev, it will be difficult for the Russian president to keep his post in the context of such a situation.

"The scenario also provides for temporary neutralization of Viktor Chernomyrdin with his further discrediting and pushing out of the political life," the Chechen president added. He said this proved that the government led by Chernomyrdin had been subjected to unfair criticism from the very first days of its work. According to Dudayev, only this government could withdraw the Russian economy from the crisis.

He said the position of former Prosecutor General Aleksey Kazannik was that of a very honest courageous man who realized that all perspectives would be in vain if once to compromise and to sacrifice the lawfulness.

International Affairs

Debt for Gas put at \$450 Million; Solution Sought

LD0303221394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2030 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent has learned that Russia today delivered 50 million cubic meters of gas less to Ukraine than in preceding days. Also today, the management of the Russian joint stock company "Gazprom" sent a telegram to Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy and to the head of "Ukrhazprom," informing them that in connection with Ukraine's indebtedness, Russia would begin to reduce gas deliveries to the republic right down to their complete suspension. The reduction will take place over three days, by 50 million cubic meters each day, which in all comes to the daily volume of Russian gas received in Ukraine.

A UNIAN correspondent was informed at "Ukrhazprom" that Ukraine's debt for Russian gas comes to approximately \$450 million for this year. At the same time, Ukrainian consumers owe 14 trillion karbovantsi to "Ukrhazprom," which cannot settle up with Russia for gas. The UNIAN correspondent learned from a conversation with an individual occupying a leading post in Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers that Ukrainian Vice Premier Valentyn Landyk today issued an instruction on suspending the supply of gas to consumers, who are "taking too much" gas or are not paying for its consumption.

To a question from a UNIAN correspondent as to whether there has been some kind of reaction from Ukraine to the actions of the Russian "Gazprom," Vladimir Podmarkov, an engineer at the chief expediting directorate of the Russian concern, observed that there has not been such a reaction. According to him, a volume of 70 million cubic meters of gas, which arrives in Ukraine every day as payment for the transit of gas across its territory to countries in Western Europe, will not be suspended if Ukraine does not take the transit gas for its own use. "Recently Ukraine has been taking approximately 50 million cubic meters too much of transit gas per day, the chief engineer of "Gazprom" reported, which its consumers in Western Europe have already been informed about."

Vladimir Podmarkov reported that the supply of gas to Belarus has also been reduced, and that Moldova has been warned of a possible reduction in the export of gas (the latter has already begun to settle up in currency and goods, and therefore the supply of gas to it has not been limited).

A UNIAN correspondent has learned that Turkmenistan, which was to have resumed gas deliveries to Ukraine at a volume of 77.8 million cubic meters per day at the beginning of the week, has not resumed them.

Shmarov: Disarmament, Cut in Gas Supplies Not Linked

LD0603175694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1708
GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] The Ukrainian president's statement as to the impossibility of implementing nuclear disarmament agreements if Russian gas supplies are stopped does not reflect "confrontation or intention to raise this issue sharply," Deputy Premier Valeriy Shmarov told Interfax-Ukraine.

On Saturday, in the course of his visit to the USA, Leonid Kravchuk told journalists that a stoppage of Ukrainian plants and factories because of gas shortages is real, and that it may jeopardize the implementation of all the previous accords, including the agreement concerning nuclear disarmament.

According to Shmarov, "the president hinted that, if economic pressure is brought to bear on Ukraine, the expectation that all of the country's resources will be accumulated to accomplish that task would be futile."

"So far we have requested Russia to raise supplies to the fixed level—100-105 million cubic meters a day," Shmarov said. "At the same time we urged local governments to halt gas supplies to plants and factories in order to give gas to the populace to hold out till the cold ends."

Shmarov believes that Russia's actions connected with reduced gas supplies have no political tinge. The Gasprom is a joint-stock society, and our debt should be paid to it," he said.

The deputy premier confirmed the reports that the first train carrying nuclear warheads crossed Ukraine's border with Russia on Saturday. According to him, in a cable sent to the Ukrainian government, Russia's Premier, Viktor Chernomyrdin, "guaranteed to ensure nuclear fuel supplies in accordance with our understanding within March."

As Shmarov said, early this year Russia delivered a consignment of fuel for the nuclear-power plant in Chernobyl, but that fuel was delivered under the "goods against money" scheme.

Under the agreement concerning Ukraine's nuclear disarmament, Russia supplies nuclear fuel in exchange for nuclear warheads only for the nuclear-power plants in Zaporozhye, Rovny and Southern Ukraine.

"Another consignment of nuclear warheads is being prepared to be despatched from Ukraine," Shmarov said. However it will be despatched "only if we see adequate actions on the part of Russia," he added.

Warheads Leave Ukraine Amid 'Stable' Russo-U.S. Ties

MK0203105094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
2 Mar 94 p 1

[Pavel Felgengauer report under the "Disarmament" rubric: "Evacuation of Warheads From Ukraine Begins. The First Tangible Result of Russian-American Partnership"]

[Text] Ironically, the first, really serious result of the Russian-U.S. strategic partnership was achieved precisely at a time when the authorities in Washington and Moscow are once again, as in the glorious years of the Cold War, expelling diplomats, accusing each other of spying, at a time when bilateral relations in general are at the freezing point.

The counselors-cum-spies, Aleksandr Lysenko and James Morris, were packing their bags and packages as Ukrainian warheads were already heading for Russia. SEGODNYA has learned from more than reliable sources that Russia and Ukraine have finally gotten around to implementing in practice the Russian-U.S.-Ukrainian trilateral agreement "On the Terms and Conditions of Eliminating Ukrainian Nuclear Weapons in Ukraine," which was signed in Moscow 14 January by Boris Yeltsin, Leonid Kravchuk, and Bill Clinton.

Under the agreement, in the last days of February the first 60 warheads removed from strategic missiles in service with the 46th (Pervomayskaya) Missile Division of the 43d Missile Army were loaded on specially equipped flatcars of a special-purpose train and sent to Russia. Today, the train with the special cargo is to arrive in a closed city run by the Atomic Energy Ministry (former Medium Engineering Ministry) in the Urals, in the plant where the warheads had once been assembled. Now they will be dismantled. There are still, of course, around 2,000 nuclear warheads remaining in Ukraine, but now there is hope that this problem will finally be resolved.

It will be resolved first of all by joint efforts of Russian and U.S. politicians and diplomats who have managed to convince President Kravchuk that the nuclear warheads, which Ukraine can neither service, use, nor safely store on its own will not bring Ukraine security or profits.

We can expect that the first real success may hold up further worsening in Russian-U.S. relations. Apart from friendly rhetoric, the strategic partnership does have a stable foundation, albeit a nuclear-missile one. The nuclear threat once helped to avert a third world war. Let us hope now that it will prevent Russian-U.S. relations from taking too drastic turns in their course.

First Train-Load Leaves for Russia

LD0603113794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1052 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Mar—The first train loaded with nuclear warheads of missiles situated on Ukrainian territory crossed the Russian-Ukrainian border early this morning. It is on its way to enterprises in Russia where this dangerous cargo will be dismantled and subsequently reprocessed and destroyed. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this by a top-ranking expert who wished to remain anonymous.

The expert believes that the movement of the trains carrying these nuclear warheads is being linked in a

number of Russian ministries with the start of the practical implementation of the trilateral Russo-American-Ukrainian agreements on the liquidation of nuclear weapons in the Ukraine, which were signed in Moscow in January of this year.

Under the agreement, Russia has agreed to deliver to Ukraine fuel for its nuclear power stations in exchange for the nuclear warheads, but not in the form of reprocessed nuclear material from the missiles that have been removed. According to the expert, it will take a long time to reprocess it—from several months to a year. Fuel for the Ukrainian nuclear power plants will be exchanged for fuel from Russia's reserves.

In reply to a question by the ITAR-TASS correspondent about help to Ukraine from Japan in eliminating nuclear weapons, the expert noted that international practice shows that nuclear weapons should be dismantled by whomever stockpiled them. The Russian side is capable of removing all nuclear warheads on the territory of Ukraine in the course of a year for dismantling subsequently at the enterprises where they were produced. The expert said that what may be at issue is help from Japanese specialists in secondary work, in particular, on dismantling silos.

According to reports from ITAR-TASS correspondents from Yekaterinburg, Chelyabinsk, and Tomsk, a number of specialist enterprises in these cities do not rule out the possibility that they may get the Ukrainian consignment. They are ready to receive it there. Russian nuclear experts also guarantee the Ukrainian side that all work in the process of removing and recovering strategic weapons will be carried out safely.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told by a duty officer at one of the main directorates of the Russian Ministry of Railways that, under the conditions of the tripartite agreement between Russia, the United States, and Ukraine, the route of the trains carrying the Ukrainian nuclear warheads is not to be disclosed. According to him, special strict security measures are observed on Russian railways when cargoes of this kind are transported.

According to the Russian Defense Ministry, there are about 1300 warheads for intercontinental ballistic missiles (IBM), more than 600 warheads for air-launched cruise missiles and 176 IBM missile launchers, including 130 SS-19 and 46 SS-24 launchers, on Ukrainian territory. The state of nuclear safety in Ukraine causes particular concern to specialists and delays in withdrawing and dismantling them are fraught with unpredictable consequences. In particular, the guarantee period has expired for most warheads, and no maintenance is being carried out. Some weapons are on the point of posing a danger. The situation is being aggravated by the fact that there are not enough specialists in Ukraine to monitor the safety of nuclear weapons.

Reported Warheads' Removal Denied

MK0403084094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Mar 94 p 1

[NEGA report under the "Details" rubric: "The Special-Purpose Train Is Already Under Way, but Not a Single Nuclear Warhead Has Been Dispatched From Ukraine to Russia So Far"]

[Text] On 2 March a Moscow-based newspaper published a report, citing "more than reliable sources," that the first special-purpose train with 60 warheads from strategic missiles has left Ukraine for Russia under the Russian-Ukrainian-U.S. agreement: "On the Terms and Conditions of Eliminating Ukrainian Nuclear Weapons in Ukraine."

Yesterday, Colonel Oleg Gromov, department chief and deputy chief of the Administration for the Operation of Strategic Missile Systems of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, called this report "disinformation" in an interview for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. Colonel Gromov is responsible for the technical condition of 43 percent of the Russian Federation Missile Forces' combat strength. He had once been in charge of the entire grouping of 176 strategic missiles in Ukraine, such as PC-18's and PC-22's. Oleg Gromov has negotiated "nuclear" deals with Ukraine from Irpen (26-27 January 1993) to the 9 February consultations in Kiev together with special envoy Yuriy Dubinin.

There are two intercontinental ballistic missile bases in Ukraine: outside Khmel'nitskiy and in Pervomaysk. Colonel Gromov said that the special-purpose train in question does exist, but up to the present day, stands empty at the Pervomaysk base. In fact, the first batch (60 warheads) may be sent to the Urals in the very near future, but for this to be done, a document worked out and initialed by specialists at the 9 February talks in Kiev must be approved and signed by the prime ministers or presidents of Russia and Ukraine during a personal meeting or by fax.

The idea behind the top-level signing is simple—to reaffirm the validity of the Massandra agreements and to determine a mechanism of mutual settlements.

As for the immediate problems concerning the removal of nuclear warheads from Ukraine to Russia and the procedure for this removal, they were settled in the documents adopted precisely on 9 February in Kiev. As a matter of fact, Yuriy Dubinin's visit to the Ukrainian capital on 8-9 February was reported, but the content of the documents has never been revealed.

Kiev Stops Removal of Missiles

*MK0403095094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
4 Mar 94 p 1*

[Pavel Felgengauer report in the "Disarmament" column: "The Fate of the Nuclear Train Is Again at a Dead End. This Time in a Railway Siding"]

[Text] Ukraine has suspended the evacuation of nuclear warheads to Russia. As SEGODNYA reported in its 2 March issue, 60 "Ukrainian" nuclear warheads dismantled from the strategic missiles of the 46th (Pervomayskaya) Missile Division of the 43d Missile Army were delivered to embarkation points on flatcars of a special high-security train. But then everything stopped going according to plan: The train did not arrive at its destination—the "electromechanical" plant was in a closed town run by the Atomic

Industry Ministry in the Urals region where nuclear charges are assembled (and dismantled)....

It will be recalled that on 14 January a tripartite Russian-U.S.-Ukrainian agreement was signed in Moscow on conditions for the liquidation of Ukrainian nuclear weapons in Ukraine. In subsequent weeks, experts on both sides prepared a coordinated schedule for the evacuation of the nuclear warheads. Specialists of the Russian Defense Ministry's 12th Main Directorate managed (with the assistance of the Ukrainian military) to resolve all technical problems within an early period. The warheads were delivered to the embarkation point and prepared for shipment.

The Ukrainian side, however, suddenly suspended the withdrawal, demanding confirmation that the Russian Atomic Industry Ministry will in March supply to Ukraine fuel assemblies for its nuclear power plants in exchange for the warheads. Ukraine badly needs nuclear fuel, with its power industry being on the verge of closure, but so far there has been no confirmation from Moscow about nuclear fuel supplies. Therefore, the Ukrainian side also put on hold the loading of warheads because it is not at all safe to keep nuclear munitions "on wheels."

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian president has begun his visit to Washington. Earlier it was expected that Leonid Kravchuk would report to President Clinton about the start of real implementation of the 14 January agreement, which was apparently supposed to raise Kiev's prospects of getting U.S. economic assistance. At the end of February, however, the general atmosphere of Russian-U.S. relations changed: the Ames case, followed by mutual deportation of diplomats and the demands in Congress to freeze U.S. aid to Russia.... Kiev must have concluded that the orientation of U.S. foreign policy is changing and now there will be no direct linkage between economic assistance and the nuclear issue—and the time has finally come for Ukraine also to show firmness in its relations with Moscow.

True, Moscow is behaving far from impeccably. To date the question about who will pay for fuel deliveries has not been settled. The Atomic Industry Ministry cannot just present fuel assemblies from its stocks to Ukraine as a gift. People in closed cities are also experiencing difficulties over the nonpayment of wages. As a result, the military just sits waiting with its dangerous, restless cargo until the politicians have figured out what has to come first, "the money or the goodies." Meanwhile, the Russian Gazprom has already started to cut gas supplies to Ukraine, and this can hardly improve the general atmosphere of deep mutual distrust between Moscow and Kiev.

Reportage on President Kravchuk's Washington Visit

U.S.-Ukrainian Talks Termed 'Positive'

*LD0403190494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1621
GMT 4 Mar 94*

[Report By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko and ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Borisentko]

[Text] Washington 4 Mar, TASS—Problems of relations between Russia and Ukraine "will be discussed at the upcoming Ukrainian-U.S. negotiations only in the context of the tripartite agreement reached in Moscow," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told ITAR-TASS on Friday. He arrived in Washington on an official visit.

"This is the right of Ukraine and Russia. Relations with Russia will be discussed only in the context of the tripartite agreement on nuclear issues," the Ukrainian president noted. He called the talks beginning in Washington "positive."

Envoy Says Visit Promotes Improved Ties

LD0603132194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1024 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko and ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Borisenko]

[Text] Washington 6 Mar, TASS—The visit to the United States by President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine has become "a big step in improving relations between the two countries," William Miller, the ambassador of the U.S. to Ukraine, told ITAR-TASS and UKRINFORM correspondents.

"The two sides concluded agreements, under which economic aid will gain in scope considerably. A number of accords aimed at facilitating trade and economic relations have also been signed. Efforts are being made to promote the implementation of the three-sided agreement, signed in Moscow in January, on nuclear issues," the ambassador said.

The question as to what has been achieved in the efforts to remove nuclear arms from Ukraine's territory was discussed as well, he pointed out. "The first concrete steps in this respect are being made. A train with nuclear warheads from the Ukrainian arsenal is already on its way to Russia," Mr. Miller said.

Report on Kravchuk's Second Day

LD0503172694 Kiev UNIAK in Ukrainian 1510 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Washington, 5 Mar—The press center of Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry and the press service of Ukraine's embassy in the United States have reported on the second day of Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk's U.S. visit, who is in Washington at the invitation of President Bill Clinton. [passage omitted]

The key event of the day were the talks at the White House with U.S. President Bill Clinton. U.S. Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Secretary of Defense William Perry, took part in the talks. The participants in the meeting examined the prospects for the development of Ukrainian-U.S. relations over a long time. Both sides analyzed the state of and prospects for the further development of bilateral relations in the context of strengthening Ukraine's economic and political role at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. [passage omitted]

A result of the intensive dialogue between the U.S. and Ukrainian in Washington were the preparation and signing of a package of interstate documents. Of these, the most important one is the joint statement on the development of Ukrainian-U.S. friendship and partnership. The document emphasizes that a new era is beginning in relations between the two states, which is characterized by mutual trust and respect, a common devotion to democracy and the supremacy of law, and a desire to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The United States acknowledges that the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine are extremely important. It is for this very reason that the United States and other countries are ready to extend security guarantees to Ukraine after it accedes to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a nonnuclear state.

Joint commissions were set up for trade and investment issues and for conversion of the defense industry, and a unified commission [was set up] to facilitate joint activity in the mutually advantageous areas of sophisticated technologies and scientific research and development. The activity of these commissions will facilitate the creation of a practical mechanism for strengthening economic cooperation and consultative assistance in specific programs and schemes. To this end, it is planning to exchange groups of experts in the near future.

The first day of President Kravchuk's official visit coincided with a decision by the United States to extend to Ukraine concessions of the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences. This will make it possible for Ukraine to supply approximately 4,500 types of products to the U.S. market tax-free. As a full-fledged member of GATT, the United States supports Ukraine's interest in officially applying for membership in this international organization and will facilitate Ukraine's entry to it. [passage omitted]

On the same day [4 March], Ukraine and the United States concluded agreements in the agricultural sphere and the trade and economic sphere. [passage omitted]

It is envisaged that Ukraine will take the necessary steps to introduce a system of free market reforms, which will include such elements as a diplomatic private sector, the liberalization of prices, and a freely convertible currency. The United States and Ukraine—the participants in the talks emphasized—will cooperate in continuing the process of reforms, which will create a basis for the future prosperity of the Ukrainian people.

Yesterday [4 March], President Leonid Kravchuk met and had conversations with the heads of a number of leading U.S. ministries and departments, and the leaders of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in his residence. As is well-known, since January 1994 Ukraine has been having talks with these financial organizations on allocating it credits to the value of \$1.5 billion. But in connection with the recent increase in financial assistance by the Ukrainian Government to unprofitable agricultural and industrial state enterprises, Western experts stated that the said investments will be—at the very least—delayed. Their size will be determined later. The aim of

Leonid Kravchuk's meeting with the leaders of international currency organizations was to influence their decision and to change the situation that has arisen.

Speaking at the news conference, Bill Clinton emphasized that he has great hopes for a full partnership between Ukraine and the states of a democratic Europe, which respect one another's sovereignty and territorial integrity, actively cooperate in conditions of a free market, and respect democracy and human rights. President Clinton noted that this attitude to Ukraine on the part of the United States is, to a considerable extent, connected with the political activity of Leonid Kravchuk, who makes such a great contribution to the international nuclear disarmament process. "The U.S. also positively perceives the first steps on the path to carrying out radical market reforms in Ukraine," Bill Clinton noted. [passage omitted]

Clinton, Kravchuk Discuss Peace Program

LD0503205094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2021
GMT 5 Mar 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko and ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Borisenko]

[Text] Washington 5 Mar, TASS—Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetsky said that Presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Bill Clinton discussed, among other things, the Partnership for Peace programme at their talks in Washington.

"We discussed the concept of the Partnership for Peace programme before our meeting with U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry in the Pentagon. The American side was interested to know our views on cooperation within the context of this programme. Our assessments had much in common," Radetsky said.

"The programme is a preparatory stage for our admittance to NATO, if such desire emerges," the minister added.

Radetsky also met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff John Shalikashvili. "We agreed to conduct joint military exercises. We also discussed the possibility of establishing a direct communications line between Kiev and Washington," he said.

Perry will visit Kiev on March 21-23. "We agreed that we will discuss problems connected with conversion, financial assistance, housing construction and adaptation of the military. There are lots of other problems which have also to be discussed," Radetsky said.

Paper Views Kravchuk Talks

PM0403165594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
5 Mar 94 p 3

[Article by Vladimir Nadein: "Ukraine Is the Most Reliable U.S. Partner in East Europe. Leonid Kravchuk Wants To Use this Idea To Get Money in the United States"]

[Text] Washington—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has arrived in Washington with the firm intention of proving to the United States that it need look no longer for a reliable partner in East Europe because it already has such a partner, a natural and reliable one, in the form of Ukraine.

This idea really appeals to many politicians in the U.S. capital. The idea of this 52-million strong republic as a model of a developing democracy loyal to the behests of Jefferson and the IMF would be really tempting. What they would need to do is to find a Ukrainian Gaydar who would not make the real Gaydar's mistakes, and to strengthen his position by means of cooperation with a Ukrainian Gerashchenko but ensuring that he does not act as unintelligently as the Russian Gerashchenko.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian president quite seriously regards his young country as the door from post-Soviet stagnation into the open world of European democracy. Leonid Kravchuk is counting on an injection of billions of Western dollars. Ukraine does not have great natural wealth comparable with Kazakh oil or Turkmen gas. There is nothing to appeal to the West here. As for its industrial potential, which until quite recently sent Soviet propaganda into raptures and inspired clearly exaggerated hopes in the campaigners for immediate independence, its utter backwardness is inspiring horror in foreign investors today and does not offer much joy for tomorrow either.

The U.S. Administration has no money, it is a poor businessman, and it has long spent more than it earned. Private business does have money but, just as Karl Marx predicted, private business is egoistic and selfish and values nothing but money.

The general uncertainty over the future of Leonid Kravchuk himself is an even more unpleasant episode. Ukraine's Constitution does not seem to be a reliable political creation and the history of the treaties signed by Kravchuk and his cabinet looks like a series of unkept promises.

This is true first and foremost of all those agreements connected with the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the transformation into a nonnuclear state, and the shipment of warheads to Russia. Strictly speaking, the missiles, warheads, and strategic bombers are the only commodity that the United States is prepared to buy in Ukraine. Not because it wants to own them but because it wants to scrap them.

Back during his first visit to Washington in spring 1992, Leonid Kravchuk complained to the White House about the Kremlin.

The choice had clearly been made in favor of Russia. Consequently Bush reacted in the same way to all the talk about the Kremlin's intrigues: He proposed the signing of the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty.

The Ukrainian visitor signed the treaty then although nothing happened as a consequence, which is why Kravchuk himself seemed to be "unwelcome" for three whole

years. Now the mood at the White House has changed. Bill Clinton's touchdown in Kiev symbolized that turnaround.

But the administration's aims remain the same as they were during Kravchuk's first visit. First, it wants to convince Kiev that nuclear weapons are of no use to it and that they are just a cause for worry.

Second, it wants to prove to Kiev that the money offered by the United States as compensation is quite a tidy sum. And even though it is not enough to build capitalism, unfortunately, it is better to take this money while it is on offer. Clinton's administration will try to use the solemnity of Kravchuk's reception to prove to its critics that it is not quite so pro-Russian or pro-Yeltsin. However, the IMF does not regard the magnificence of a reception as a factor of financial stabilization. That is why Leonid Kravchuk will almost certainly not succeed in the attempt to unfreeze the \$1.5 billion.

Kravchuk Meets With Butrus-Ghali

LD0603103494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0205 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] UN Headquarters, 6 Mar—UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali received Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who arrived in New York from Washington, at his New York residence on Saturday evening.

Taking part in the conversation, which lasted around 40 minutes, were Anatoliy Zlenko, Ukrainian minister of foreign affairs; Volodymyr Khandohy, temporary charge d'affaires of Ukraine's permanent representation at the United Nations; and a deputy of the UN secretary general, his senior political counsellor Chinmaya Gharekhan. In the course of the conversation, they touched on the question of Ukraine's participation in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, sanctions against the former Yugoslavia, and lifting the blockade on shipping on the Danube. The question of the fellowship of nations assisting Ukraine in overcoming the Chernobyl catastrophe, as well as the economic situation in the country were also discussed.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was the only foreign correspondent to find himself inside the closed private UN residence during President Leonid Kravchuk's visit. In reply to a question on the subject matter of his conversation with Butrus-Ghali, Leonid Kravchuk said: "The problem of the former Yugoslavia and ways of solving it were discussed. Ukraine is participating in its solution through the UN Organization. Furthermore, our battalion is there. Another 800 soldiers are now preparing to take part in peacemaking operations in the former Yugoslavia."

Kravchuk said that in the course of the conversation with the UN secretary general, it was noted that Ukraine was in favor of "a peaceful, political settlement of the Yugoslav problem within the framework of the United Nations."

"We also discussed the problems of Ukraine's economy and Chernobyl. For us is a very important problem since a

sizeable portion of the budget goes into overcoming the Chernobyl disaster. We have been asking the United Nations to give us moral, but not only moral support," Leonid Kravchuk said.

"We also discussed the question of sanctions against the former Yugoslavia. You are aware that our Danube shipping is out of work now having practically ceased to function because we support sanctions... That is also a very complex problem," the Ukrainian president said. He stressed that a "discriminating" approach was needed where sanctions were concerned.

Kravchuk Welcomes U.S. Relations

LD0603213994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Excerpt] On Saturday evening, the entire elite of the Ukrainian diaspora of North America gathered near the new white-stoned building in order to witness a significant event: The solemn opening of the Ukrainian consulate general. President Leonid Kravchuk, Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, and other members of the Ukrainian delegation that are in the United States of America on the visit, took part. The fact that the Ukrainian consulate general has opened in the largest U.S. city [as heard] is evidence that our state already possesses one of the central places in the system of international relations, said the head of the Ukrainian state in a speech to those present.

Our talks in Washington, with U.S. President Bill Clinton, other leaders of the U.S. Administration, IMF officials, the World Bank, and business circles, confirm the rightness of the above mentioned statement. The foreign and domestic policies carried out by the Ukrainian leadership resulted in a positive reaction from the United States. U.S.-Ukrainian relations have reached a new level of cooperation. In Washington, we signed a range of important bilateral documents. "All this, as President Clinton said, is evidence of a new stage in our relations. The opening of the Ukrainian consulate will contribute to the development of political, economic, and cultural contacts between our peoples."

The Ukrainian president personally thanked those present in the hall—representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora—for rendering assistance in helping to open the consulate general in the center of New York. Practically all the money for converting the consulate building was collected as a result of donations from Americans of Ukrainian origin and large corporations that are active in the Ukrainian market. [passage omitted]

Zlenko Says U.S. Needs Sovereign Ukraine

LD0503205694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1918 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Borisenko and UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko]

[Text] Washington, 5 Mar—The relations between the United States and Ukraine "have reached a qualitatively

new level," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko told the UKRINFORM and ITAR-TASS correspondents. Commenting on the results of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's visit to Washington, which ends on 5 March, he noted that "the administration has reviewed its policy with regard to Ukraine." "On the eve of the Ukrainian president's visit, a number of articles appeared in the U.S. press, suggesting that the existence of a strong, prosperous, and democratic Ukraine was in the interests of the United States," Anatoliy Zlenko said. "The stability and viability of Ukraine, which lies at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, will be important for democratic changes in Europe."

In the minister's view, the results of the talks in Washington "give one reason to suppose that the United States reserve an important place for Ukraine in international politics. The United States attaches much importance to ensuring that Ukraine remains an independent and sovereign state," the minister stressed. "If Ukraine loses sovereignty, this may upset the balance of forces in Europe."

The main focus during President Kravchuk's visit to Washington, he continued, was given to discussing economic issues. A meeting with representatives of business circles showed an increased interest of U.S. business in establishing business contacts with Ukraine. The atmosphere of trust between the two countries "creates a favorable political climate," noted A. Zlenko. U.S. President Bill Clinton has already announced that aid amounting to \$700 million is being assigned to Ukraine. A group of U.S. experts will arrive in Ukraine in the near future to determine the priority trends for the development of economic relations. Ukraine will receive support from international financial institutions, in particular from the International Bank.

"The political barometer of Ukraine-U.S. relations points to 'fair weather'," stressed Anatoliy Zlenko in conclusion.

Crimeans Criticize Sevastopol Shift to Russia

LD0303185694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1313 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] [No dateline as received] The work of an extraordinary session of the City of Sevastopol Council of People's Deputies of the twenty-first convocation began on 3 March. On its agenda is the issue of the critical socio-economic situation in the city. Sevastopol's strike committee, formed from activists of the left-wing forces, insists deputies should approve a package of decisions, in particular on transferring Sevastopol as the Black Sea Fleet's main base to Russia's jurisdiction, integrating Sevastopol in the Crimea, and opening branches of the National Banks of Russia and Ukraine etc.

Asked by a UNIAN correspondent, Crimean politicians commented on the issues to be discussed at the session, as follows:

Petro Morhunov, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Crimea-Party of the Republican Movement of Crimea [RPK-RDK]: "The RPK-RDK

Coordinating Council has considered the issue of the extraordinary session's sitting. Our attitude to a possible decision by the Sevastopol Council is negative. The transfer of Sevastopol by Ukraine to the jurisdiction of Russia would completely sever the city from Crimea, which frankly violates the Crimean constitution in accordance with which Sevastopol is an indivisible part of the Republic of Crimea. Even the draft resolution's clause on concluding an agreement between Sevastopol and Crimea, planned for consideration, will not resolve the problems that are bound to arise after the implementation of the first two clauses.

"We suggested that the Crimean president attend the city council's session personally or send an adviser to avert unlawful actions".

Refat Chubarov, deputy chairman of the Majlis of the Crimean Tartar People: "The issues included in the agenda of the City of Sevastopol Council, can destabilize the situation on the peninsula. They demonstrate that the social basis that backed the Russia bloc candidate, Yuri Meshkov, in the Crimean presidential elections, does not intend to quiet down and let others, including the Crimean president, live quietly.

"If deputies do take a decision leading to the detachment of Sevastopol from Crimea, Crimean separatism can be expected in the very near future and all of us will have to abandon any hope for an improvement in the republic's economic situation. I hope collective wisdom of City of Sevastopol Council deputies will defeat the absurd ideas of [Oleksandr] Kruhlov [chairman of Sevastopol branch of Russian Party of Crimea] and the likes of him".

Joining GATT Deemed 'Logical Political Consequence'

WS0403150894 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Report by Viktor Naumenko]

[Text] The path of Ukraine's continued existence as a civilized European country lies exclusively in its integration into the world economy, particularly with regard to world trade. Therefore, access to the GATT, which unites 117 members and controls 90 percent of world trade, is, without exaggeration, of colossal importance for our country, because this represents guaranteed entry into world markets. Legislation on external economic activities, which was oriented toward GATT standards, was adopted in Ukraine as early as 1991. In 1992, Ukraine was granted the status of observer, and in mid-1993, work on gaining official access to GATT began. It should also be pointed out that this process is very complex and protracted, and we are expecting support from the United States in this regard. Access to GATT represents a considerable increase in commodity turnover, a preferential trade regime, without huge import taxes for Ukrainian goods on Western markets, and, finally, large Western investments in the Ukrainian economy. The following are statements made by Serhiy Osyka, deputy minister for external economic relations and first deputy chairman of

the Interdepartmental Committee for Issues of Ukraine's Joining GATT, at a news conference yesterday at the Ministry of External Economic Relations in Kiev.

[Begin Osyka recording] First of all, this is the logical political consequence. Access to GATT, meaning integration into world trade and economic systems, is automatically connected with our reforms. Therefore, the ability to do this, as well as this very process, enjoy a very high international, political evaluation. This is expressed not only in words but also in acts. For example, this process has been encouraged in our relations with the United States, the European Union, Germany, and other countries, and we have even reached an agreement that these countries will provide us with technical assistance in the process of joining GATT. Regarding economic benefits, access to GATT will allow for the abolishment of tariff barriers and overcoming the status of a trade outsider. This means that we will be able to very seriously work on expanding our exports, changing their structure, and diversifying markets for our products. This will allow us to effectively liberalize our external economic activities. [end recording]

Defense Minister Rules Out Military Bloc With Belarus

LD0403172294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2030 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Text] Lvov [no date as received]—Army General Vitaliy Radetsky, the Ukrainian defense minister, and Colonel General Pavel Kazlowski, the Belarusian defense minister, ended their visit to Lvov on 2 March. At the ministers' meeting and in working groups, several issues were discussed, including key personnel training, Army materials, machinery supply and logistic support, and regional security. At the center of attention were the issues that related to the return of servicemen to their homeland—from Belarus to Ukraine and vice versa—and their material security.

Accords were reached on the training of specialists in various professions at Ukraine's and Belarus's military educational institutions, as well as on machinery repairs and the possibility of arms exchange or trade.

After the talks were over, a news conference was held. Answering a UNIAN correspondent's question on whether such meetings could lead to the formation of a military union or a bloc, Vitaliy Radetsky said: "Participation in military blocs is ruled out by Ukraine's military doctrine. Our cooperation with Belarus is purely bilateral and does not involve anything reminiscent of a military bloc."

Defense Ministry Delegation Visits Israel

LD0403165194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2030 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev—The press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry reported on 3 March that a Ukrainian Defense Ministry delegation, led by Deputy Defense Minister Colonel-General Ivan Oliynyk, visited Israel from 23 February to 2 March. During the visit, talks were held with David

Ivri, director-general of the Israeli Defense Ministry, Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur, and the leadership of the Defense Ministry and Armed Forces of Israel.

The sides agreed to develop relations in the spirit of mutual respect and mutual benefit. Specific projects for joint manufacture of a number of products and the undertaking of scientific and technological developments were discussed.

The Ukrainian delegation visited Israeli armed forces units, where it was briefed on the work of a number of leading defense industry enterprises. Much attention was paid to aspects of possible cooperation between the Ukrainian and Israeli Defense Ministries in the defense industry sphere.

Yuriy Shcherbak, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Israel, and Tzvi Magen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Israel to Ukraine, took part in the talks and the working part of the visit.

National Affairs

Crimean Official Denies Ukrainian Army Withdrawal Demanded

LD0403161094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1400 GMT
4 Mar 94

[Text] Simferopol—Interviewed by a UNIAN correspondent on 3 March in connection with the Ostankino 2 March report on the Republic of Crimea president's demand of the Ukrainian Army's withdrawal from the territory of the peninsula, the Crimea president's press secretary, Vyacheslav Lebedev, said Yuriy Meshkov made no such statement. "The guilt of the president is that he insists Crimea needs to broaden the potential of its resorts in every way and to this end, reduce both Ukrainian and Russian military presence on the peninsula," he added.

Navy Responds to Crimea's Demand

LD0403202094 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Navy press center released a paper today reflecting its opinion of President of Crimea Yuriy Meshkov's statement on the need for withdrawal of Ukrainian military formations from the territory of the peninsula. The press release contains a reminder that the disposition and deployment of military formations, units, and subunits is performed in accordance with the Ukrainian law on the armed forces. The authors of the paper stress that Crimea is an autonomous region within Ukraine and is therefore its inseparable part, and that issues of national defense are referred exclusively to the president and the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

Air Force Generals Said Unhappy With New Commander
MK0403120094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
 4 Mar 94 p 4

[Report by Konstantin Parishkura: "Military Fliers Against Their New Commander. Seven Generals Hand in Resignation"]

[Text] Seven generals, including ex-commander Valeriy Vasilyev and all six members of the military council, have handed in their resignations in the wake of the signing by President Kravchuk of an edict appointing General Vladimir Antonets as new Ukraine Air Force commander.

According to local media reports, three of the seven generals decided not to quit for the time being after an urgent visit, and a confidential discussion, to the Ukraine Air Force staff in Vinnitsa by Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskiy. The remaining four, currently on vacation, were given time for reflection. The reason for the generals' dissatisfaction is, as they see it, the new commander's insufficient professional competence, and frankly pro-president political platform.

Journalists have also learned that Mr. Kravchuk has received a letter from officers of the Chernigov air regiment speaking about an extremely tense situation among the troops, who are being poorly supplied with fuel and food. The training of young personnel has all but stopped, and the number of generals is growing while that of officers is waning. Whether this situation is going to change with the appointment of General Antonets, time will tell.

Enterprises Given Rules for Gas, Electricity Supplies
LD0403180694 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian
 1700 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Ukrinform has reported that the reduction of gas deliveries to Ukraine from Russia is being monitored by the government. Incidentally, talks today at Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers was devoted to these very issues.

According to Deputy Prime Minister Valentyn Landyk, the current crisis situation with the gas supply has been created, in particular, by enterprises of the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Machine-Building, Military-Industrial Complex, and Conversion. Henceforth, it is envisaged to introduce advance payment for gas and electric power as of 1 April, and to establish a tough procedure, in accordance with which nonpaying enterprises will be disconnected from the grid, which supplies these energy resources.

Ministers Blamed for Contributing to Gas Crisis

LD0403195394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian
 1900 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] A consultation on issues connected with limits on gas deliveries to Ukraine and the state of accounts for its consumption has taken place at the Cabinet of Ministers. The heads of a number of ministries, the enterprises of which have the largest debts for gas and have in fact

created the present crisis situation with gas, were subjected to harsh criticism. Deputy Prime Minister Valentyn Landyk demanded that they take resolute measures to correct the situation.

Enterprises Must Purchase Imported Fuel With Hard Currency

LD0403215894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
 2035 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev— Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Yevtukhov held a consultation with the heads of the Industry and Machine-Building Ministries on the state of fuel supplies in the industry, and measures to improve the system of payment for fuel and settlement of the consumers' existing debt.

The press service of the president and the Cabinet of Ministers reports that they discussed a draft resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers that would divide the functions of the state and enterprises regarding fuel supplies. It implies that the state would be liable to supply fuel first of all to those consumers that are on the state budget payroll.

In an exclusive interview for UNIAN on 4 March, Deputy Economy Minister Vasyl Hureyev said: "We knew that payment for fuel in hard currency (rubles) would be painful, and although enterprises dealing in exports were reluctant at first, now they have basically agreed to pay in currency other than coupons. If they do not, then as Deputy Prime Minister Valentyn Landyk warned, we will simply disconnect the gas supply. We realized that this would partially affect the social sector, but there is no other way."

It was decided to establish a procedure, according to which enterprises of the State Committee for Oil and Gas would supply fuel to consumer enterprises on a contract basis only, which would probably include advance payment as of 1 April.

Fuel consumers would pay for imported gas and oil products in Russian rubles or in hard currency relying on their own proceeds, or the purchase of hard currency at the interbank currency market as envisaged by the Cabinet of Ministers resolution of 3 January 1994: "On Payment for Natural Gas by Enterprises of the Ministries of Industry and Machine-Building."

A consultation participant, Deputy Industry Minister Volodymyr Novytsky, told UNIAN it was not ruled out that enterprises would have to pay for fuel in advance even before 1 April.

The meeting also discussed the expediency and possible mechanism of the division and resubordination of the so-called social sector, which is part of the enterprises' expenditure.

The Economy Ministry was instructed to finalize the draft resolution taking account of the comments made and submit it to the Cabinet of Ministers.

**Meshkov Accused of Media Purges, Free Speech
'Assaults'**

WS0403171694 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYIV in
Ukrainian 2 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Viktor Chukhlib: "Democracy According to Meshkov"]

[Text] In the wake of Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov's ascent to supreme power in the Crimea, assaults on the freedom of speech are becoming more commonplace every day. As we reported earlier (VECHIRNIY KYIV, 22 February), Viktor Khomenko, editor of the Ukrainian program on Crimean Television and one of the best television reporters, was fired from his job last week. Soon afterwards, several progressive journalists were also fired. On 19 February, Meshkov summoned Crimean Broadcasting Company President V. Astakhov and—in the presence of V. Hryshankov, head of his administration and former colonel in a military security section—asked him to retire, because they "will not achieve harmony in their work."

Astakhov's refusal was met by a statement from the recent leader of the Russian Movement of the Crimea [RDK] that he will find a way of firing Astakhov.

Addressing a news conference on the same day, Astakhov stated that he will not retire, and that Meshkov has no legal basis for dismissing him—the 'Krym' Broadcasting Company is a branch department of Ukraine's Derzhtele-radiokompaniya [the State Broadcasting Company], with which the Crimean journalist had signed a five-year contract.

V. Astakhov believes that Crimean President Meshkov, the current power and political structure, and the RDK have launched a purge in media, which will lead to the introduction of state censorship and the curtailment of democratic processes in the autonomous republic.

The introduction of political censorship on Crimean Radio and Television is a natural development of the antistate and anti-Ukrainian policy, which has been embodied by Meshkov and his political entourage from the very beginning of his presidential career. Under the cover of a struggle for the rights of the Crimean Russian-speaking population, which oversteps all moral and ethical bounds, the president has tried to destroy all that is Ukrainian in the peninsula at any price. He is in tune with all the pro-Russian and chauvinist forces that threaten to make short work of anyone adhering to different political views.

We present to you one of the letters sent by "the residents of our peninsula," which is being received almost everyday by Halyna Khmylevska, moderator of a Ukrainian program on Crimean Radio:

"You bitch! If you do not stop your propagandistic nationalistic Banderist [Bandera—prominent Ukrainian nationalist leader] policy on the radio, you will face the destiny of Osmanov and Nemetov. We hate your program and your toady voice on the radio. We switch off the radio. Come to a conclusion, bitch! Behave as a citizen of the Crimea should, and cool it, or we will get you. [Signed] Crimean residents." [preceding paragraph in Russian]

Such is the letter published by us without any changes or grammatical corrections. Such is the democracy that is being built by President Meshkov in the Crimea.

Belarus**Supreme Soviet Passes New Constitution***LD0403174094 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1624 GMT 4 Mar 94*

[Excerpts] At the Republic of Belarus Supreme Soviet session discussion continued on articles of the draft new constitution of Belarus. Agreement was reached that proposals for making amendments to the Constitution may be considered by the Supreme Soviet only in the event of their initiators being the president, 40 people's deputies, or 150,000 citizens of the Republic. The deputies also voted unanimously in favor of an article providing for equal elections, in which all voters have an identical number of votes and an approximately equal number of citizens live in each constituency. [passage omitted]

Thus, the new Constitution of the Republic of Belarus was passed article by article. However, an attempt to pass, in its first reading, a draft law on the introduction of the Constitution into operation did not obtain the support of the majority of deputies.

A draft law on the national archives was passed in its first reading, and amendments and changes to the civil code of the Republic of Belarus were considered. With this the session adjourned its work until 15 March.

Hryb Says Belarus 'Becoming Real State'*LD0403190894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1547 GMT 4 Mar 94*

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Valentina Menshikova for TASS]

[Text] Minsk 4 Mar, TASS—"The Supreme Soviet's decision to introduce the institution of the presidency in our country is a symbol that our republic is becoming a real state," announced Belarusian Parliamentary Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb on Friday at a meeting with activists from the Women's Movement. "And the adoption of a new Constitution will strengthen society's movement towards a socially-orientated democratic system," he said.

The speaker of the Belarusian parliament emphasized that the deputies' determination to resolve the country's political problems in a constitutional way is in the interests of the people, who are tired of the constant meetings charged up by leaders of individual parties.

"The path of government reorganization marked by the Supreme Soviet is the most constructive: Presidential elections are to be announced, representing the popular choice of the state's head, and then parliamentary elections. All this will not lead to a power vacuum," Hryb noted. "At the same time, the opposition is proposing a diametrically opposed movement towards social reconciliation: The disbanding of the Supreme Soviet, early elections for new deputies, the adoption by the latter of a new constitution, and only then the election of the president. That drawn-out and very expensive project will inevitably

lead to a social explosion under conditions of an imbalanced economy. That is exactly what we are trying to avoid," the Supreme Soviet chairman announced.

Gas Cutback Resolved by 'Urgent Payoff of Debts'*WS0403101494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 4 Mar 94*

[Text] As of yesterday, gas supplies to our republic from Russia were reduced by 10 million cubic meters. Such is the volume of gas cut down by the Russian joint stock company "Gazprom" due to late payments. Mikalay Macharnyuk, general director of the Belarusian state enterprise for transportation and supply of gas "Beltransgaz," told BELINFORM that this [reduction] was announced in a telegram. The telegram also warned against a full cut of supplies because the Republic has not paid about 50 billion Russian rubles for fuel. All possible measures to repay debts are now being adopted. In connection with this, the Council of Ministers held a session which discussed ways out of the crisis. One of the ways is, first of all, the urgent payoff of debts by direct consumers of the blue fuel—industrial enterprises. This question must also be worked out by the National Bank.

Nation To Pay Part of Debt for Gas*LD0403193294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 4 Mar 94*

[Text] The Belarus Government today found 31 billion rubles to service its debt to Russia for its gas and oil, which, as is known, exceeds 400 billion rubles. The Republican Government is prepared to apply compulsory measures to those Belarus companies that owe Russia, said Mikhail Myasnikov, the first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. In the deputy prime minister's words, the Belarus Government will do everything possible to clear the major part of its debt to Russia in the near future.

Government Starts Paying Gas Debt*LD0503111294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1056 GMT 5 Mar 94*

[By Belinform correspondent Mikhail Zhuravovich for TASS]

[Text] Minsk 5 Mar, TASS—Belarus will receive today 20 million cubic metres of gas less than usual, a spokesman for the Beltransgaz state enterprise, which controls the transportation and delivery of gas, told Belinform. Its senior executives said that the decision of the Gazprom joint stock company on reducing gas deliveries "can hardly be described as groundless," because Belarusian enterprises are consuming gas, but are in no hurry to pay for it.

The Belarusian council of ministers "outlined various measures for paying the debts, Belinform was told at Beltransgaz. Some 30 billion roubles have already been transferred to the account of Gazprom. The money was

raised with the help of the Ministry of Finance, the National Bank and auctions at stock exchanges," the Beltransgaz spokesman said.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on German Visit

LD0403173194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1716 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Vyacheslav Kevorkov and Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn, 3 Mar—"We regard our visit to the FRG as very important and we hope that it will help to activate economic cooperation and give renewed impetus to the political dialogue between the leadership of the two countries." This was stated today in an exclusive interview given to the ITAR-TASS correspondents by Pyotr Krawchanka, Belarus foreign minister, who is on an official visit to the FRG.

The signing took place in Bonn today of two important documents—an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of culture and also a memorandum on cooperation in alleviating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. "At the present time," the head of Belarus' foreign policy department continued, "we have begun work on preparing further accords, which will be signed during forthcoming visits at a higher level."

"The Belarus side is satisfied with the level of development of relations with the Federal Republic of Germany. At least they look more solid than those with any other Western European country: We have credits and joint enterprises. Germany is our number one partner among Western countries; it occupies first place in our exports and imports. Today we can state that Germany takes its obligations to Belarus very seriously. The fact that half the government guarantees for goods deliveries and credits for our country is equal to the whole credit allocated to Ukraine—totaling 300 million German marks—shows that the Germans' intentions are serious.

The minister was asked a question about the Belarusian leadership's attitude to the Partnership for Peace program approved recently by NATO. "On the whole, we are positive about this idea. It will be discussed in the Belarus Security Council and in the Belarusian parliament, after which Belarus' official position will be drawn up," he said.

Stressing that considerable attention was paid to disarmament problems during his discussion with German Foreign Minister K. Kinkel, the minister pointed out that "under its international obligations, Belarus is due to destroy at least 2,000 tanks, 1,650 APC's, and 150 aircraft. The number of tanks to be destroyed is the highest in Europe. These tanks do not belong to us, yet it is we who must destroy them. This is why we need technological and financial assistance now. In particular, it is well-known that this process requires a large quantity of energy."

Answering a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent about the Belarusian leadership's attitude to Gazprom's decision to reduce gas deliveries beginning today [3

March], the Belarusian foreign minister said, "I think this issue is not political, but economic. After all, we have signed a preliminary agreement with Gazprom to set up a unified Russian-Belarusian joint-stock company, and we expect that Russia will sell us gas not at contract prices, but at the prices charged on the domestic Russian market."

The Belarusian foreign minister's visit to Germany lasts until 5 March.

Integration With European Union

LD0403204694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1845 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Vyacheslav Kevorkov and Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn 4 Mar, TASS—"I think Belarus will integrate with the European Union after 2005 and recognize all values of the Maastricht agreements. I am strongly convinced of that," Belarusian Foreign Minister Pyotr Krawchenko, currently here on an official visit, told ITAR-TASS today.

Speaking of results of his Bonn negotiations, Krawchenko said "the visit has been prepared for over a year and very thoroughly. We have signed two very important documents in Bonn, including the memorandum on interaction in overcoming Chernobyl consequences.

"Belarus is the first state to conclude such an agreement with a leading European nation. Paradoxically, many countries avoided cooperation on the issue at the interstate level. This memorandum is the first document of the sort. In fact, charity exceeded the assistance Belarus received through state channels. Germany is the leader in this respect, 40 per cent of charity aid is its."

Asked about 1994 meetings between German and Belarusian leaders, Krawchenko stressed "we have discussed a possibility of German visit of Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich. I hope the visit will be held in 1994. Its precise date has not been specified as Germany is expected to have 19 elections, including parliamentary, this year. It will be hard to find time for the visit in the near future."

Sharp Cutbacks Taking Place in Military Production

LD0403210694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] A sharp cutting down of military production is taking place in Belarus, First Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Tushinsky declared speaking at the session of the board of Belarus' Defense Ministry. In his words, "last year these rates reduced by 65-70 percent compared with 1991."

As Tushinsky asserts, due to an uncontrolled growth of prices for raw materials and fuel and energy, growth of salary, and other factors, cost value of production has increased. As many as 24,800 highly qualified experts (12.9 percent) discharged from defense enterprises, 8200 people—from military research institutes and design

bureaus, he reported. As he said, "there has occurred decrease of traditional markets to sell this products due to their high price and reduction of demand for military products and military orders."

According to the first deputy minister, these circumstances "have forced many enterprises to stop or cut down production and compensate the losses producing civil products at the expense of irrational reorientation of industrial capacity. In 1988-92 14 industrial enterprises have entirely stopped production of special products," pointed out Tushinsky.

Government, Unions, Employers Association Sign Agreement

LD0503130794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] As the government information service announced, a general agreement for 1994 has been signed between the Belarus Council of Ministers, the Federation of Trade Unions, and the Association of Employers. Taking into account an assessment of the socioeconomic situation and prospects for the Republic's emergence from the crisis, the document fixes the following major indicators for improving the operation of the national economic complex and improving monetary and financial policy: not to allow a reduction this year in the gross national product of more than 3.2 percent, in industrial production—4.7 percent; to increase output of consumer goods by 1.6 percent; to achieve a reduction in the average monthly rates of inflation of 10-12 percent.

The document, signed by the leaders of the interested parties, also sets out the rights and social guarantees for workers. The full text of the general agreement will be published in the press.

Moldova

Opinion Poll on Republic Independence Given

AU0603185294 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Correspondent Cristian Nita report from Chisinau]

[Text] The latest information received from the republican commission in charge of preparations for the sociological poll "What People Advise" shows that the action is currently unfolding normally and the republican commission has not received information about any violation of the rules concerning the unfolding of the poll.

In the eastern rayons of the republic, where citizens had the opportunity to start voting in the poll a week ago, local correspondents report that some of the citizens have the possibility to vote on the right side of the [Dniester] river and in the Dubossary area, the authorities of the self-proclaimed Dniester republic have doubled and even tripled the number of border guards.

In Chisinau, by 1030 local [0830 GMT] only 10-12 percent of citizens that have been registered on lists participated in the voting.

Mr. Mihail Coscodan, chairman of the commission in charge of the organization and unfolding of the poll said this morning on the television that the poll has no such legal value as a referendum would have had, but its positive results might influence the orientation of the future parliament's activity.

In turn, President Mircea Snegur, after expressing his opinion in the poll, stated this morning to representatives of the press that this action lays the foundation for the future constitution and the citizens will vote for the existence of a democratic state. Today, the fate of our state is being decided, said President Snegur.

In conclusion, we remind our listeners that the question that citizens have to answer in a positive or a negative way is the following:

Are you in favor of the Republic of Moldova's development as an independent, unitary, and indivisible state, with borders valid since the proclamation of its sovereignty, that is, 23 June 1990, and in favor of Moldova promoting a policy of neutrality that has relations of mutually advantageous cooperation with all countries of the world and guaranteeing equal rights to all its citizens, in accordance with the norms of the international law?

In the right hand corner of the voting ticket, two answers, namely, "yes" and "no" are marked in capital letters. A ticket on which both answers are marked, or on which none of them are marked out, is not considered valid.

Snegur Comments on Poll

AU0603213394 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Correspondent Septimiu Roman report from Chisinau]

[Text] From the republican commission in charge of organizing and unfolding the sociological poll "What People Advise" we have learned that so far, two-thirds or approximately 66 percent of the citizens of Moldova who have been registered on lists participated in the voting.

In Chisinau the participation in the poll was about 39 percent, one of the lowest in the republic. We mention that one of the reasons for this reduced participation in the poll was—according to the statement by chairmen of several voting sections—the complex nature of the question, which, in fact, included five independent questions that citizens had to answer with a simple "yes" or "no." It is expected that tomorrow the final result will be published.

President Mircea Snegur today granted an interview to a REUTER reporter. Answering a question that referred to the sociological poll "What People Advise," Snegur said that today the Moldovan people emphasized their option by affirming their legitimate will to live in a state that from a territorial viewpoint is independent. The head of state assessed that the results of the poll will eliminate the

speculations of leaders in Tiraspol regarding the intentions of the Republic of Moldova to unite with Romania.

Regarding the statute of the 14th Russian Army, Mircea Snegur said that the forecasts and statements of certain people have nothing in common with the official negotiations, during which the representatives of the Republic of Moldova demanded the withdrawal of the Russian military forces. In practical terms, the terms of withdrawal are being discussed and a common language with the authorities of the Russian Federation will be found on these issues, said Snegur. He also expressed the view that by joining the Partnership for Peace program, the Republic of Moldova will become more secure, because the respective initiative proposes to eliminate all possible tensions in Europe.

90 Percent Favor Independence

LD0703111794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] The majority of Moldova's people believe that the Republic should be an independent, united country, according to preliminary results of the nationwide survey of the population held on 6 March. Initial returns indicate that two-thirds of the Republic's registered electorate took part in the survey, INTERFAX reports. About 90 percent of those who voted gave an affirmative answer to the question of whether Moldova should develop as an independent, united, indivisible state.

Russian Gas Supplies To Continue Despite Nonpayments

LD0403152294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Moldova has managed to persuade Russian gas suppliers not to resort to extreme measures, like cutting off gas supplies because of nonpayments, stated Boris Karandyuk, director general of Moldova's state department on gas supplies. Yesterday he held talks on settling Chisinau's gas debt to Russia with Gazprom managers. Chisinau will clear its debt by supplying goods, particularly agricultural goods.

Presidential Adviser on Reasons for Resignation

LD0503190994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 5 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] The chief advisor to the Moldovan president, Viorel Chubotaru, has tendered his resignation. In an interview with INTERFAX, he motivated his decision by saying that as a result of the recent parliamentary elections the Social Democratic Party, which nominated him for the republican parliament did not obtain the right to pursue its policy.

"As the head of the executive, the president cannot base his moves on a representative of any political course which

has failed to receive the support of the majority of citizens," Chubotaru made clear.

Asked whether the parliamentary majority is able to stabilize the situation in the country, he pointed out that this depended on how to understand the stabilization and what methods will be used to achieve it. "We believe that the retention of sovereignty by the republic's people is the main aspect of Moldova's retention of independence as a state. This means achieving an economic sovereignty, e.g. a possibility to pursue an independent economic policy, free from pressure from outside," Chubotaru was quoted as saying.

In his opinion, the new government's actions within the next six months will not affect Moldova's relations with international financial and economic institutions, in particular, the implementation of a memorandum signed by the Moldovan government, National Bank of Moldova, IMF and World Bank for the period until July 1 1994.

Chubotaru believes that the state program for privatization developed by the Social Democratic Party will not be drastically amended within the next six months. At the same time, he did not rule out the possibility of other than original interpretations of the key provisions of the law and the privatization program.

Foreign Ministry Protests Remarks in Romanian Senate

LD0503172794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] The Moldovan Foreign Ministry believes that the statements by some Romanian senators are of "insulting nature intended to put the results of the parliamentary elections in Moldova under the question mark and undermine the authority of its leadership," according to its note to the Romanian Foreign Ministry.

The note followed a session of the Romanian Senate on Thursday which focused on the results of the parliamentary elections in Moldova and allowed itself a number of tactless statements concerning Moldova.

The document stipulates that "speaking about romanophobia [as received] and anti-Romanian sentiments in Moldova, the Romanian Senate actually questions Moldova's statehood and the legality of its borders."

"We are far from considering the elections to the Moldovan parliament as perfect. However, we maintain that the upper chamber of Romanian parliament made tendentious and absolutely inequitable attacks capable of affecting the good-neighborly relations between Romania and Moldova," the note concludes.

Defense Ministry Denies Russian Army Withdrawal Postponed

LD0503182894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] The Moldovan Defense Ministry refuted allegations of postponing the next round of the Moldovan-Russian

negotiations on the status and the terms for withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army. It was alleged that the Russian party had demanded the postponement.

Head of the Moldovan military experts, Nikolay Turturyanu, told INTERFAX that several supplementary provisions to the Moldovan-Russian general agreement on the 14th Army had been worked out during the consultations of the military experts.

"The 8th round of the negotiations is to take place in the near future. It will focus on the issue concerning the 14th Russian Army," Turturyanu added.

He stressed that Russia had, as yet, put forward no more demands. He reminded that the negotiations were held at the state level and the position of the Moldovan Defense Ministry reflected the position of Moldova in general. The position of Moldova has remained the same, he said.

Head of the Moldovan delegation, Moldovan Ambassador to Russia, Anatol Taranu confirmed that Moldova had insisted on unconditional withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army before 1 July, 1994.

Turturyanu refuted the allegations that the 14th Army might be reorganized into a Russian military base on Moldovan territory.

"These allegations have no grounds. Those who circulate the allegations proceed from the example of when Russia transformed its military formations on Georgian territory into military bases. However, Russia has not even raised this issue at the negotiations with Moldova," he pointed out.

Lebed on Dniester Situation, Army's Status

PM0703111194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of 14th Russian Army, by Sergey Knyazkov under the "Conflict Zone" rubric; place and date not given: "To Feel the Power Behind You. Ten Questions to the 14th Army Commander"]

[Text] The person of Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army, has long attracted attention. The year before last, largely thanks to his efforts, the war between Moldova and the Dniester Region was halted. People on the left bank of the Dniester literally idolized Lebed. But now Dniester Region newspapers have started to become full of materials depicting the former hero almost as the main opponent of the unrecognized republic.

[Knyazkov] Love is one step away from hatred, is it not, Aleksandr Ivanovich?

[Lebed] The situation in the Dniester Region is complex. I would say it is an impasse situation on many counts. The political impasse comes from the participation of representatives of the DMR [Dniester Moldovan Republic] in last October's events in Moscow and the passing of the

death sentence on the Ilascu group. It is an open secret that Ilascu is a scoundrel. But the death sentence was passed on him against a background of protests from the United Nations, the CSCE, Amnesty International, Russia, the United States, and Britain. Appeals by the Pope and by Aleksiy II were ignored.... Thus, the political isolation of the unrecognized republic was exacerbated.

The economic impasse.... National currencies, at the very least, have been introduced everywhere, and here they have decided to go "their own" way: Onto old Soviet money they have stuck stamps with a picture of Suworov, and they say that this is a local currency with a certain degree of protection. But in my view this is not money but trash, and even if your pockets are full of it it is not used anywhere but in this region. It is, of course, primarily the ordinary people who suffer as a result. Pensioners receive 14,000 local rubles a month (1,000 Russian rubles are equivalent to 4,500-5,000 "Suworovs"). For comparison, 1 kg of beef costs 35,000 "local" rubles in the market. In short, the situation in the Republic is serious.

[Knyazkov] Why, after all, have your relations with the Tiraspol leadership become aggravated?

[Lebed] I would not say that our relations are entirely bad, although you could not call them good either. How can they not be strained if there is one provocation after another in respect of the Army and its commander? On 13-14 January, for example, leaflets were pasted up in the city of Tiraspol calling Lebed "the Judas of the Dniester Region, preparing a military coup." Next, incidentally, the newspaper PRAVDA specified the date of the military coup—15 January—and published a report claiming that leaflets calling for the overthrow of DMR President Smirnov had been pasted up all over Tiraspol. On 15 January I was holding a surgery on personal questions, and I received 62 people. No soldier was sitting there in a bulletproof vest, and they were all engaged according to the combat training plan. I have not contemplated and do not contemplate any military coups, if only because of a number of very simple considerations. The DMR was created by the will of the people who live here on the basis of the decisions of the second congress of deputies at all levels. For me, the will of the people who live here is the supreme form of legitimacy of the adopted decisions. The people have a right to reelect their leaders, but I have nothing to do with this. I am the commander of the 14th Russian Army, I am a Russian general!

[Knyazkov] The impression is gained that it is advantageous to someone to remove you from the Dniester Region.

[Lebed] You are right. Flexible and soft generals, who are inclined to make total compromises, are convenient for appanage principalities, which is what the DMR is now. I do not count myself as one of these and, naturally, I am unwelcome with some people.

[Knyazkov] What about the Army Military Council's 8 February statement, which says that in the event of a large-scale armed provocation in the Dniester Region the

Army reserves the right to cool hotheads on both banks of the Dniester? The Moldovan Foreign Ministry viewed that as gross interference in the Republic's internal affairs....

[Lebed] I cannot gainsay Moldova's right to make just such an assessment of the statement by the 14th Army's Military Council. But account must be taken of the fact that I monitor carefully the development of the situation. On the eve of the parliamentary elections in Moldova the situation was tense. I had been seeking and, it seems to me, I found quite a successful way out, if I defused the situation with the help of that statement.

[Knyazkov] The fact that, according to your words, passions subsided somewhat on both banks of the Dniester following the statement by the 14th Army's Military Council attests not only to the timeliness of that document but also to a real force whose opinion Chisinau and Tiraspol politicians are obliged to take into account. What kind of a force is this—your army, Aleksandr Ivanovich?

[Lebed] The Army's personnel complement stands at 85.4 percent—very high for these times. I had been planning over the next four-six weeks to attain a level of 94-96 percent, but we were obliged to suspend the recruitment of contract servicemen owing to a lack of clarity with the military budget. But even what we do have is quite sufficient. Visit a training ground and see for yourself how the guardsmen drive and fire. Last year we took examinations on Russian training grounds, and nobody got less than a "good," although they were operating on unfamiliar terrain.

[Knyazkov] From where do the Army's reinforcements come?

[Lebed] I recruit only volunteers. There are volunteers from Russia. There are, let us put it this way, local draftees, but it is necessary to understand the situation in respect of them. Some 80,000 Soviet Army pensioners and approximately 17,000 national economic specialists, who at various times, after graduating from corresponding higher educational institutions, were sent here to work and took up permanent residence here, live on the territory of Tiraspol alone. They have children and grandchildren, and the majority of these youths have no wish to go and serve in the Dniester Army, still less the Moldovan Army. Where are they to go? They come to me. Each of the volunteers signs a corresponding document confirming that he considers himself a citizen of Russia and pledges to take an oath to the Russian Army and to obey Russian laws. This document is inserted in his personal file. But I emphasize once again that only volunteers serve in the 14th Army!

[Knyazkov] But what idea rallies the Russian servicemen in the Dniester Region?

[Lebed] A patriotic, power idea! But the power itself must also meet its defenders halfway. We do not need a great deal, we are undemanding. But a person must serve and feel the power behind him even at a "down-to-earth level." An officer must have an apartment and pay that which enables him to keep his family and not eke out a miserable

existence. Then his children will not fall ill, and his wife will not "nag" him—then he will devote all his strength to service.

[Knyazkov] A question in regards to this: How are the social problems of officers discharged to the reserve being resolved in the Army?

[Lebed] It cannot be said that everything has been done, but we are tackling housing construction with the utmost intensity. I will not hide the fact that we have scored some successes. Precisely 222 apartments have already been constructed in Rybinsk, Rostov, Smolensk, Kostroma, Lobnya, Zelenograd, Tula, Penza, Voronezh, and Berdsk. Pensioners are actively moving in. If there is prompt funding, then in 1994 we will attain the target of 904 apartments. These will be in the cities of Krasnodar, Novorossiysk, Anapa, Engels, Saratov, Belgorod, and Vyatskiye Polyany. I will not hide the fact that the process is proceeding as planned, and all the contracts have been concluded. They are meeting us halfway, and I am endeavoring not to let them down. The supreme principle in the Army is that not one officer or ensign will be discharged into the reserve until he has received housing.

[Knyazkov] How do you see the prospects for the 14th Army today?

[Lebed] As is known, the leadership of the Republic of Moldova unequivocally advocates the Army's withdrawal from its territory, but the situation is highly complex. The point is that it is now impossible, in my view, to withdraw the Army. There are very many reasons, starting with the fact that there is still no political solution to the past bloody conflict between Moldova and the Dniester Region—accordingly, there are no guarantees of peace and stability in this region. The possibility of a relapse into hostilities has not been exhausted—people are simply afraid. They see the 14th Army as the guarantor of peace and stability, capable of preventing war or, if war is nonetheless unleashed, of halting bloodshed. Therefore, the Army's withdrawal must be preceded by a very long, delicate, and wise political process, which, unfortunately, has not yet begun. But it is possible and necessary to speak of reorganizing the Army. Following the breakup of the unified Union Army, many units of central and district subordination became subordinate to me. Some of them are simply not needed. Therefore, great reorganization awaits the 14th Army.

[Knyazkov] To conclude our conversation: What would you like to wish your fellow servicemen and, of course, yourself?

[Lebed] There is nothing more terrible than a general who has not fought. Generals who have not fought and particularly, politicians who have not smelled gunpowder, unleash all kinds of conflicts with uncommon ease in the hope of some ephemeral victory. There are quite a few such conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union now, but there will be and there can be no victors in them. Armenians have been fighting Azerbaijanis for umpteen years and have thereby set back their development 30 or

even 50 years. The Georgians have not defeated and will not defeat the Abkhazians, nor will the Abkhazians defeat the Georgians. These civil wars have no beginning and no end. So I would wish all who have experienced evil in them to be able to restore peace with all their reason and, if

necessary, by force. All pretensions to a large-scale civil war must be stopped in a very tough manner. It seems only to the evil and fools that "now we will do a little bit of fighting here, and then all will be well"... a dangerous delusion that is fatal for society.

Kazakhstan

National Elections: 'No Uniformity of Opinion'

LD0703093994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0828 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Kulagin and Vladimir Akimov and KAZTAG correspondent Gennadiy Lunev]

[Text] Almaty 7 Mar, TASS—Kazakhstan is choosing a new parliament and local councils on Monday in this former Soviet Republic's first contested elections.

Some 756 registered contenders are vying for seats in the parliament, six to a seat. Three hundred and sixty-one of them were self-nominated, public associations named 331, and 64 were nominated by the president.

The most widely represented among the candidates are the "Popular Unity of Kazakhstan" coalition, the Socialist and Republican Parties, as well as the Trade Union Federation, the "Popular Congress of Kazakhstan", and the Peasants Union.

Voting is going on in more than 10,000 polling stations, 6.5 thousand of which are located in rural areas and in shepherds' winter camps.

According to the public opinion poll conducted by the Giller Institute ahead of the elections, 62.9 per cent of the voters and 50.3 per cent of candidates said they favoured private landownership. 74.8 per cent of the voters and 41.7 per cent of the candidates said Russian should be given the state language status in the Republic.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev said at the polling station, to which he came together with Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko to cast their ballots in the elections, that there was nothing more important for the Republic at present than "to adopt laws which could help democratise our young sovereign state, and encourage economic reforms and the restructuring of the legal system".

"I hope that the new parliament will be more active than the previous," the Kazakh president said.

There is no uniformity of opinion among the voters. According to the Giller poll only 25 per cent of them were planning to vote for the candidates who prioritise the development of private property and free enterprise, while 66 per cent favoured a tougher state regulation of the economy.

Nazarbayev Sends Message to Turkey's Demirel

LD0403184794 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Turkish President Suleyman Demirel received Kazakh Ambassador Kanat Saidabayev. He conveyed special greetings from President Nursultan Nazarbayev, and informed him of some recent aspects of internal and foreign policy of our Republic. The head of the Turkish state expressed his gratitude to Nursultan Nazarbayev for

the detailed and warm letter, which, in his view, was another proof of the development of friendship and cooperation between Kazakhstan and Turkey, and the close personal relations between the two leaders. The Turkish president noted that the mutual cooperation on political, economic, cultural, and humanitarian spheres are deepening and widening.

For example, he said that Turkish Government credit is being implemented successfully, the International Kazakh-Turkish University named after Hoja Ahmed Yasevi is already functioning, and more than 1,500 students are studying in Turkey. Suleyman Demirel sent his warm and sincere greetings to President Nursultan Nazarbayev and all Kazakhstani people.

Tajikistan

Prime Minister Expresses Concern on Economic Crisis

LD0503113194 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] As we have already reported, yesterday at Government House, Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov had a meeting with representatives of various parties and movements of Kyrgyzstan. It dealt with questions of the economy and ways of getting out of the current situation—and the situation is truly excessively grave—especially in industry. All major factories are working under capacity, almost standing idle. For example, the Lenin machine-tool works, the Frunze machine-tool works, EVM [computer company] and others are operating at only 20-25 percent capacity. People working at these factories are being forced to take indefinite leave. Agricultural production is also falling in the Republic. Now the main reliance is on private farming and joint agricultural enterprises with foreign firms. This is already happening in Moskovskiy Rayon. The prime minister replied to all the questions of those invited.

Turkmenistan

Talks Held on Economic Cooperation With Japan

LD0403193594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0755 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Kurbanova]

[Text] Ashgabat, 4 Mar—Priority areas of economic cooperation between Turkmenia and Japan—the construction of gas and oil pipelines, modernization of oil refineries and power stations, and the establishment of powerful desalination plants—were discussed today at the first session of a joint committee formed at the end of last year at the suggestion of Japan's Ministry of Trade and Industry. Thirteen of Japan's biggest companies—Mitsubishi, Mitsu, Nichimen, Itochu corporation, and others—have joined it. The committee is headed by the Turkmen Vice Prime Minister Rejep Saparov, and president of Itochu Corporation, Minoru Murofushi.

Representatives of this firm who are attending the meeting expressed their wish to become members of an international consortium building a gas pipeline across Iran to Turkey, and to take part in the modernization of a number of petro-chemical plants.

The efforts of the joint committee have already resulted in agreement on the construction of a polyethylene plant in the town of Seydi, which will be built by Mitsubishi Corporation. The Export-Import Bank of Japan is extending credit of \$320 million for this project.

The next session of the Japanese-Turkmen economic committee is scheduled for next fall in Tokyo.

Uzbekistan

President Karimov Interviewed on Visit to Russia *LD0403174394*

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 2032 GMT on 3 March broadcasts a 10-minute program entitled "Russia and Uzbekistan: A Path Toward Trust." The program contains an interview with Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov by Ostankino Television correspondent Farid Seyfulmulyukov. The interview was recorded after President Karimov had concluded his official visit to Moscow and is on the results of his visit, his talks with President Yeltsin, and the general situation in the CIS.

President Karimov begins by saying: "I am satisfied with the results of the talks and conversations we had with President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, members of the government, statesmen, and public representatives." He continues: "I would like to draw the main conclusion on the results of my visit: Relations between Russia and Uzbekistan are entering an entirely new stage and are reaching an entirely new level. I would like to stress again that in some way it is a prototype of the relations Russia intends to have with the countries within the CIS and, thus, to give an entirely new impetus to the content of the Commonwealth in general." "In this regard, the interests of both Russia and Uzbekistan coincide. We do not imagine our future without Russia. I state this authoritatively. I am convinced that Russia's interests in Central and Middle Asia and Uzbekistan coincide with the policy we pursue, and I am convinced that Russia is interested in having Uzbekistan as its reliable long-term partner and ally in the Central Asian region."

Karimov says that Russia is a great superpower, and as such, Russia has interests beyond its territory. In his opinion, Russia—like any other superpower—should protect its interests and state them loud and clear. He stresses that here "the main point is that there should be no

imperial ambitions on the part of Russia, and that Russia's interests should coincide with the interests of the countries and states, which have become sovereign and independent today."

He continues: "Then the foundation is laid for normal, equal, and mutually advantageous long-term reliable relations between these states." Karimov reiterates that Uzbekistan is interested in having such a reliable partner as Russia, and stresses that Russia should be a guarantor of stability and peace in the Central Asian region.

To a question about the exacerbated situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and measures to stabilize it, Karimov says: "The border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan is not merely a border between these two states, it is the CIS border; it is the border of Russia, Uzbekistan, and all other states in this region," and everyone is interested in peace and stability in Tajikistan. "There are no effectual borders between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and everything taking place in Tajikistan today will affect Uzbekistan tomorrow without fail," President Karimov stresses. He adds that the states that are parties to the treaty on collective security have clearly stated that their interests in the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan are unshakeable, "and we will do everything possible to protect these borders as our own."

Touching on the issue of reforms, Karimov explains that the purpose of reforms in Uzbekistan coincides with the purpose of reforms in Russia. Uzbekistan is in favour of a market economy. He stresses that both Russia and Uzbekistan are countries of the east and have specific features which have to be taken into account. These features are connected to their historic past, national peculiarities, and to the mentality of the people. He warns that "Russia is no Poland, or any republic where any experiments can be performed," and stresses that people should come first, because reforms are not implemented for reforms' sake, but for the sake of the people.

On the prospects for the Commonwealth, Karimov says that political independence and sovereignty are not economic notions. In his opinion, political independence should be based on economic categories. "Our first principle is the priority of the economy over politics and a complete removal of ideology from the economy. Having built the economic basis of our society, we can speak about sovereignty and independence," Karimov states. He says that the Commonwealth is what was needed after the disintegration of the Union. "If there had not been a Commonwealth, we would have probably had a scenario similar to the Yugoslav one on the territory of the former Union. I have grounds for saying this. In this respect, during this time the Commonwealth has undergone certain changes and transformations. Today all the member states of the Commonwealth realize that our future lies in a closer knit Commonwealth, and we should give this Com

monwealth specific forms and a specific face. The Commonwealth should work toward common goals as well as toward the interests of every state that joins this Commonwealth." Karimov says that today the Commonwealth has new goals and that everyone is convinced that "we should see our future in strengthening the Commonwealth. Russia is interested in us, and, of course, we see that our future lies together with Russia. What we signed today and yesterday is evidently the prototype of what Russia will have with all the CIS states, and this will ensure that our relations with Russia are equal, mutually advantageous, long-term, and most reliable in terms of partnership," President Karimov concludes.

Russian Television Relays To Stop 7 Mar

LD0503193494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Reports from Tashkent say that the relay of Russian Television programs on the territory of the republic will officially be stopped as of 7 March. The Russian channel

has been handed over to the Uzbek Television Third Program. It will also partly be devoted to relaying programs from Turkey.

This means that the 2-million Russian diaspora in Uzbekistan will no longer be able to watch Russian Television.

State Cuts Funding for Housing Construction

LD0603175994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1708 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov has issued a decree under which most of the housing construction in the Central Asian republic is to be funded either by enterprises or private individuals.

The state will finance the building of homes only for poorer people, large families, pensioners, and war and labor veterans. Under the decree, an individual building a house for himself does not have to produce an income declaration, may receive a credit from a bank for at least 10 years at 20 percent interest and buy building materials at reduced prices.

Armenia

Papazyan Seeks Alignment of CSCE, Russian Ideas

NC0503192894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1320 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 5. (SNARK)—The striving of the peace making forces to achieve the coordinated solution to the Karabakh conflict settlement was highly appreciated by Vahan Papazyan, the Foreign Minister of Armenia. In Papazyan's opinion despite the independent attempts of Russia and CSCE to stop bloodshed in the region, up-to-date reality dictates the necessity of convergency of both parties' positions, and it will lead to the more noticeable results in the conflict settlement. "The Armenian diplomacy makes all efforts in this direction, and today's visit of Jan Eliasson, the chairman of the CSCE's Minsk Group to Armenia mainly will be connected with the question of convergency the Russia's and CSCE's positions in Karabakh problem" Papazyan said.

CSCE Minsk Group Holds Talks in Yerevan

LD0603211394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2051 GMT 6 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan March 6 TASS—A delegation of the Minsk group on Nagorno-Karabakh of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe headed by its chairman Jan Eliasson arrived in the Armenian capital Yerevan on Sunday. During a meeting with Armenian Foreign Minister Vagan Papzyan, Jan Eliasson shared his impressions about his visit to Baku and Stepanakert.

According to Eliasson, both Baku and Stepanakert had come to the conclusion that it was impossible to settle the Karabakh conflict by means of force. He said the Minsk group maintained contacts with Russian president's envoy Vladimir Kazimirov. The CSCE Minsk group leadership hopes to find a key to the peaceful settlement of the conflict in close cooperation with all the parties concerned including Russia, he said.

The Armenian foreign minister expressed hope the Minsk group's activities would help determine all the initial positions to get the process of preparation to the Minsk conference on Karabakh moving. The only possible way to settle the Karabakh conflict is to coordinate the CSCE mediatory efforts with Russia's peace-making initiative, Papazyan said. In this connection he expressed hope the Minsk group leadership and the staff of the CSCE chair would work in close cooperation with the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Later in the day the CSCE delegation held working consultations with the Armenian Foreign Ministry's expert group headed by First Deputy Foreign Minister Zhirair Liparityan.

Jan Eliasson also met Armenian Defence Minister Serzh Sargsyan.

The CSCE Minsk group delegation arrived in Yerevan after meetings with the Azeri leadership during which Eliasson called for stage-by-stage settlement of the conflict on the basis of international principles and stressed that the cease-fire agreement was the first step towards restoring peace in the region. He said CSCE is ready to send observers to the region.

Discusses Mediation Role

LD0703120894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1132 GMT 7 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan March 7 TASS—The Karabakh conflict can be settled only by joint efforts of the international community which combine the peace initiative of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Russia's mediatory initiatives, according to the concerted view expressed by Armenian officials and chairman of the CSCE's Minsk Group Jan Eliasson on the second, closing day of the visit by the Swedish diplomat and his colleagues to Armenia.

The visiting group members are scheduled to meet Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and parliament members, as well as to visit Catholicos Vazgen II, the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Before leaving Yerevan for Vienna, CSCE delegation members are due to meet reporter at a press conference devoted to the results of their visit.

On the first day of the visit, the CSCE group met Armenia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Vahan Papazyan. During the meeting Jan Eliasson told the Armenian minister about his impressions from a trip to Baku and Stepanakert and talks with the leaders of the warring sides—Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to the Swedish diplomat, people in the region are firmly convinced that the Karabakh conflict can not be settled by forcible methods. This view is shared by Baku and Stepanakert, the CSCE official said.

Eliasson said the Minsk Group maintains contacts with the Russian president's personal envoy Vladimir Kazimirov. "The leaders of the CSCE's Minsk Group hope to find the key to the peaceful settlement of the conflict in close interaction with all parties concerned, including Russia," the diplomat said.

For his part, the Armenian minister expressed the hope that the new leadership of the Minsk Group would work more effectively to identify the starting positions for setting in motion the process of preparations for the Minsk conference on Karabakh.

Jan Eliasson also met Armenia's Defence Minister Serzhik Sarkisyan.

Papazyan on Importance of Meeting With Israel

NC0503193294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1320 GMT
5 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 5. (SNARK)—The official visit of the Foreign Minister of Armenia to Israel, that was postponed according to a mutual agreement, will take place in several months. Vahan Papazyan, the Foreign Minister, told SNARK about it.

According to him the beginning of the dialog with Israel has a great importance for Armenia, "which is not only the member of the SIC [expansion unknown] but also the Near-Eastern country." In his opinion existence of the numerous Armenian community in Israel should be taken into account, and it is useful to establish close relations with the community.

Russian Envoy Meets Government Officials

LD0503120194 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in English 2340
4 Mar 94

[Text] Yesterday, on 2 March, the chairman of the Republic of Armenia received the extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Stukishin [name, title as heard]. From the chairman's press service we were informed that there had been discussed many problems connected with the Armenian-Russian relations on both sides. The reception [was] attended [by] Minister of Foreign Affairs Vahan Papazyan, the ambassador of special resolutions of the chairman of the Republic of Armenia, the chief officer of the Armenian national security department, David Shakhnazaryan [title as received].

Azerbaijani 'Advance' on Fizuli Said 'Beaten Off'

LD0603164794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1517
GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] After two days of fierce fighting, Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh have beaten off the Azeri advance on Fizuli dealing tangible losses on the adversary, a military spokesman for Karabakh defence forces told Interfax. The situation has somewhat evened on Sunday morning.

There were positional battles there throughout Saturday with no substantial gains made by either side.

At the same time, the spokesman denied the Azeri defence ministry's report saying that up to 100 Armenian soldiers were killed following an abortive Armenian advance. Three Armenian tanks were also destroyed.

Reports from Stepanakert say that 120 Azeri soldiers have been killed in two days of fighting. Two Azeri tanks and one APC were hit. Nine Armenian soldiers were also killed and 35 others injured.

Fighting on Southern Front Reported

NC0403153094 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported at 1500 that a relative calm still prevails at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

The situation remains tense on Karabakh's southeastern war front. Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army press service reports that following a brief lull overnight, active military operations directed toward Fizuli resumed at 0600 this morning. The Azerbaijani troops opened intensive rocket and artillery fire on the Karabakh positions. The enemy is again trying to break through the defenses of the Karabakh forces. The enemy's attacks were still being checked at 0900.

Casualty figures are being determined. A relative calm prevails on the other sectors of the front since last night. At present, we have not received any additional information.

Karabakh Official Says CSCE Talks 'Useful'

NC0503133994 Yerevan SNARK in English 1044 GMT
5 Mar 94

["Karabakh's Position Has Found Understanding in the CSCE"—SNARK headline]

[Text] Stepanakert, March 5 (SNARK)—Masis Mailyan, the chief of the Department of International Organizations of the Foreign Ministry of Karabakh, appreciated the results of the negotiations, that finished in Stepanakert on March 4, as useful. The negotiations were held between the delegation of CSCE Minsk conference, headed by its chairman Yan Eliasson, and the authorities of Karabakh.

Particularly, Mailyan told SNARK during the negotiations the Karabakh party turned the attention of the CSCE's delegation to the expediency of the coordination of mediatory initiatives of Russia and CSCE on the peaceful settlement of the conflict. According to Mailyan the official Stepanakert's point of view has found the understanding among the representatives of the CSCE.

Karabakh Army Informs Russia of Truce Violations

NC0503191394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1215 GMT
5 Mar 94

[Text] Stepanakert, March 5. (SNARK)—Situation is still disquiet in the south-eastern part of Karabakh conflict zone.

As SNARK was told today in the press-service bureau of Karabakh Defense Army (KDA), in the developed combats Karabakh forces were able to reject all attacks of Azeri troops in Fizulinskiy direction and caused the enemy to retreat to initial positions. Towards morning of March 5, by the same source, combat actions in that sector bore positional character.

At the same time, told journalists today the KDA staff operative division chief Aleksandr Mamunts, KDA command regularly informed Russian defense minister of all cease-fire violations by Azerbaijani side, since the truce agreement was reached in mediation of Russian military establishment. Mamunts said that in the evening of Feb. 28, KDA command has ordered its troops to cease all military activity since zero time of March 1.

Presidential Aide on Settlement of Conflict

LD0403180794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 4 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] The president's aide Levon Zurabyan has said that the Armenian-Azeri conflict has reached the stage when it is impossible to speak about a stable and guaranteed truce without the use of disengagement force. The aide welcomed Russia's preparedness to send such force to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Addressing a briefing in Yerevan, Zurabyan said that today Russia is the only state which is prepared to take such a step and "it is obvious that Russia shows resoluteness". He also did not rule out the possibility of the arrival to the region shortly of Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev to continue the talks and achieve a truce.

The aide believes the by the moment Azerbaijan exhausted all its reserves during the recent large-scale offensive at the Karabakh front which the country launched December 18 [sentence as received]. Baku, he said, only seized the settlement of Goradiz at the expense of many casualties.

At the present stage Azerbaijan has sustained another defeat, said the aide. He believes this could also be described as a defeat of the policy to settle the Karabakh conflict by the use of force.

Zurabyan believes that now there are all prospects for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. He stressed the importance of the meeting in Moscow February 18 of the defence ministers of Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The protocol signed during the meeting, he said, provides for the establishment of truce in Karabakh and the discussion of further political steps. The concept has always served as a basis for the Armenia leadership stance, said Zurabyan.

He said the frontline is to be fixed, after which the conflicting sides are to disengage the troops to 10-15 kilometers of the contact line. Next it is planned to create joint monitoring groups which will be deployed along the front perimeter and will act under the control of the joint chiefs of staff. The agreement does not provide the site for the withdrawn troops from the occupied territories.

If the mechanism works, said Zurabyan, we shall have a guaranteed and lasting truce. And then the question could be raised about a four-partite summit meeting which will discuss political aspects of the Karabakh problem.

Speaking about the relations between Armenia and Georgia, Zurabyan said that no matter what, they are normal and both sides believe that only joint efforts can help them overcome the crisis. The problem is related to the political situation in Georgia, he said, which is on the brink of chaos now. The explosions at the railway on March 2 indicates that the Georgian leadership does keep the situation under full control.

The plenipotentiary envoy of the Russian president, the head of the peace mission for settlement in Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov who has recently visited Yerevan and Baku, told Interfax that until the warring sides in Karabakh are not separated, any agreement on ceasefire "risks to remain just a paper".

In his opinion, the withdrawal of armed units for distance inaccessible for artillery fire can be the only guarantee of ceasefire in the region. He noted that so far this condition had not yet been met, and "sporadic violations of truce continue to take place".

The Russian envoy also informed that after the withdrawal 30 flexible groups of the Russian Army observers will be deployed in the "separation strip". These groups will also include representatives of the warring sides. "Only in that case it would be possible to objectively judge which of the sides committed this or that violation", Kazimirov emphasized.

The Russian Deputy Defense Minister, Colonel-General Georgiy Kondratyev [name as received] who was also in Yerevan and Baku told Interfax that on Thursday he had received from the military command of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh a response to proposals of the Russian side on the settlement of the conflict. (The warring sides were offered to proceed with the ceasefire process, to withdraw to agreed regions heavy weapons within March 2- 5 and to mutually separate troops in the Mardakert and Fizuli directions - IF). According to the general, Armenia and Nagorno- Karabakh agreed to accept these proposals on the condition that Azerbaijan does the same. However Azerbaijan, he said, agreed to just continue the process of ceasefire and considered it unacceptable to withdraw arms and troops to regions determined beforehand, because Armenian units are located on the occupied territories of the republic.

Kondratyev stated that if the warring sides are not separated, Russian officers will not be sent "under fire". "If the sides do not fulfil the conditions of the protocol, then let them fight until the victorious end", he said.

Plan To Burn Nuclear Waste in Karabakh Refuted

NC0403220494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1503 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 4. (SNARK)—Levon Zurabyan, the acting press-secretary of the Armenia's president, refuted today information of some mass media that Armenia "is going to use the Azerbaijani territory occupied by Karabakh for burning radioactive waste of the Armenian nuclear power station". He called these rumors a propaganda trick.

In the interview to the SNARK reporter, Mr. Zurabyan expressed an opinion that such rumors are spread out in order to prevent renewing of the Armenian nuclear power station's work and thereby not to allow Armenia to have an independent energy source.

Meanwhile, as he pointed out, by spreading out, Azerbaijan makes a vain attempt to prove that Armenia infringes on the Azerbaijan's territory and even is going to use it for own purposes.

Mr. Zurabyan said that absurdity of these statements is obvious.

'Bandits' Block Georgia-Armenia Motor Road

NC0403161694 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The Transportation Ministry's press service reported that following the bombing of the railway bridge over the River Khram in Georgia, a group of bandits set up a roadblock on the Sadakhlo highway and thus cut off the shortest motor road from Georgia to Armenia.

As part of urgent measures adopted by the Armenian Government, the Transportation Minister Henrik Kochinyan left for Tbilisi today to ensure the use of detours for the transportation of vital goods.

Azerbaijan

Fighting Reportedly Continuing in Southwest

LD0403181194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617
GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] As the press service of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reported Friday, bloody hostilities are going on in the republic's south-west in violation of ceasefire agreements.

According to Baku, after a heavy artillery preparation the Armenian forces supported by 5 armored vehicles attempted to break Azerbaijani defense line on the Fizuli section. Simultaneously the adversary launched an offensive in the direction of the village of Goradiz in order to surround detachments of the Azerbaijani forces in the Fizuli-Dzhebrail region.

The command of Azerbaijani armed forces, the statement says, was forced to take adequate countermeasures. Azerbaijani soldiers managed to stop the enemy and push him back to the initial positions. As a result of hostilities, the adversary lost more than 100 soldiers, 3 tanks, and 1 APC.

The Azerbaijani side has also experienced some losses.

Karabakh Repels Attack

LD0503150694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456
GMT 5 Mar 94

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent Leonid Nersesyan for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan March 5 TASS—Azerbaijani troops were forced to retreat to their original positions after their attack in direction of Fizuli was repelled by the Nagorno-Karabakh defence army on Saturday.

Aleksandr Mamunts, head of the operational department of the Nagorno-Karabakh defence army headquarters, said that army commanders inform the Russian Defence Ministry about all violations of the ceasefire agreement by the Azerbaijani side on a regular basis.

Meanwhile, head of the Minsk group on Nagorno-Karabakh of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe Jan Eliason met with Armenian leaders in Yerevan to discuss ways to promote concerted peace-keeping efforts of international organisations in the region.

The diplomat arrived in Armenia from Stepanakert, capital of the disputed enclave, where he and members of his delegation visited several villages and the front line.

Ministry Reports Further Details

LD0603161394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in
Russian 1419 GMT 6 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 6 Mar—At 1600 hours, the press service of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry informed the ITAR-TASS office in Baku that the Armenian Armed Forces are continuing the mass artillery shelling of positions of Azerbaijan's army at the southern front area, which they started today at 0600 hours. According to this report, the settlement of Goradiz, which is a big, strategically important settlement in the southwest of Azerbaijan, is under very intensive bombardment.

A special statement issued this afternoon by the Defense Ministry of Azerbaijan said that the armed forces of Azerbaijan adhere to the conditions of the cease-fire agreement in the zone of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which was concluded in Moscow on 18 February under the mediation of Russia, and they are trying to set up all necessary conditions for the CSCE mission, which is working in this region now. The document underlines that the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry is worried about the situation "created by Armenian sources around the cease-fire planned for 1 March," which, as Armenians believe, has been broken by the Azerbaijani side.

In this connection, the Defense Ministry reminded us of the attempts of the Armenian Armed Forces to break through the defensive line of the Azerbaijani army, which have been continuing for the last five days. The Defense Ministry considers the information fuss around the failed truce as "an attempt to drive a wedge in the Azerbaijani-Russian relations and to cause mistrust in the CSCE and Russian role as mediators in the settlement of the conflict."

7 March 1994

Armenia Reportedly Moves To Withdraw Troops*NC0603082394 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 0930 GMT 3 Mar 94*

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev has agreed to the plan Moscow has proposed for the implementation of a cease-fire agreement in Karabakh. Meanwhile, the Armenian forces have begun to withdraw from the areas they have occupied in Azerbaijan.

Tofik Abbasov, a representative of the presidential palace in Azerbaijan, informed an IRNA correspondent in Baku yesterday that the cease-fire agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia was put into effect last Wednesday evening. He also stressed that Vladimir Kazimirov, President Yeltsin's special envoy, will supervise the implementation of the cease-fire and the withdrawal of Armenia's forces from the occupied territories.

Tofik Abbasov declined to mention the areas the Armenian military forces will withdraw from in accordance with the Moscow agreement. However, he noted: The liberation of Lachinskiy Rayon from the occupation of the Armenian military forces will take a long time.

Lachinskiy Rayon links Daghyk Karabakh with Armenia in the western part of Azerbaijan.

Azeri Forces Observe Cease-Fire*LD0603163694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1517 GMT 6 Mar 94*

[Text] The Azeri armed forces adhere to conditions of the agreement on ceasefire on the front line with Armenian armed units in Nagorno-Karabakh, which was concluded in Moscow on February 18 with the mediation of the Russian defense minister. This was said in a statement of the Azeri Defense Ministry released on Sunday.

"All necessary conditions are being created for the work of the CSCE mission now visiting the region", the document says.

At the same time, the Azeri Defense Ministry has denied mass media reports that Baku rejects Russia's plan for the settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh and "challenges Moscow".

On the same day the Azeri Defense Ministry's press service reported mass artillery shelling of Azeri army positions on the southern part of the front and in the northwest of the republic. "Only thanks to timely adequate measures the enemy's armored vehicles will be unable to launch an offensive", the press service said.

Ministry: Armenian Attack 'Foiled'*NC0603184194 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 6 Mar 94*

["Text" of statement by Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense press service on 6 March]

[Text] The Armenian Armed Forces, which wish to violate the cease-fire agreement, have maintained their aggressive

activities. Our positions were subjected to an intense wave of artillery shelling this morning. The enemy units fired on Goradiz. Thanks to countermeasures taken by Azerbaijan's fighters, the Armenian plan to attack with armored vehicles was foiled. The enemy units fired on Azerbaijan's positions in the northwest sector from time to time today.

The Armenian military forces have tried to penetrate Azerbaijan's defenses for the fifth day. [passage indistinct] That state of affairs is aimed at disrupting the effort made by Russia and the CSCE to find a peaceful solution to the dispute.

The leading officials of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense wish to reiterate once again that the Azerbaijan military forces remain committed to the cease-fire agreement, which was reached through Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's mediation in Moscow on 18 February, and [words indistinct] the work of the CSCE representatives in the region.

Mamedov, Delegation Visit Israel*NC0403215594 Baku TURAN in English 1743 GMT 4 Mar 94*

[Text] Baku (March 4) TURAN—Azerbaijan telegraph agency says that presently the delegation of Azerbaijan Republic headed by Vice-premier, Asker Mamedov, takes place in the business-congress in Israel city of Gude.

On Tuesday, the delegation was received by the Foreign Minister of Israel, Shim'on Peres.

In the course of the meeting, Foreign Minister of Israel said that he welcomes the resolutions of the SC [Security Council] CSCE concerning the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from occupied Azerbaijan's territories.

After the meeting Shim'on Peres told the journalists, that in order to get objective information about the situation in the zone of Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict, they will send a high-rank representative of Israel government to Baku.

Foreign Ministers of both states discussed the act of terrorism in Khevron [Hebron]. They mentioned that this act will not put an obstacles on the way to the talks between Palestine and Israel.

Both parties came out for close and mutually advantageous cooperation between Azerbaijan and Israel.

The same day the delegation was received by Israel President Ezer Weizman.

Baku Spurns Russian Peace Plan, Urges Pullout*MK0403121094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Mar 94 p 1*

[NEGA report under the "Nagorno-Karabakh" rubric: "Russian Settlement Up in the Air. Baku Does Not Like It"]

[Text] The Baku authorities have declined to approve the Russian-proposed plan that calls for the creation of a

"demilitarized zone" [sanitarnaya zona] in the area of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and the dispatch of military observers to the region. This has transpired after the visit to Baku by Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister; and Vladimir Kazimirov, chief of the Russian mediatory mission for the settlement of the Karabakh problem. Our correspondent has learned from sources at the Azerbaijani president's staff that during his meeting with the Russian official envoys, Geydar Aliyev questioned the need to disengage the warring factions as proposed by Moscow. Under the plan, the Armenian and Azerbaijani troops must simultaneously retreat from the current engagement line by 10-15 km so as to set up observer posts in the emerging 20-30 km corridor. Baku says it will not retreat from the front line to the requisite distance because Armenian troops are currently occupying nearly 20 percent of the republic's territory. Hence, in Baku they think that it is the Armenian side that should retreat from the front line. The Russian officials have not accepted this approach, so the Russian phased settlement plan is once again up in the air.

We asked an official spokesman for the Russian Federation Defense Ministry to spell out the Russian side's arguments. "We condemn the occupation of territories," he said. "But at the same time we should see the cause-and-effect relationship in this situation. The occupation of the territories is a result of the continuation of hostilities. This is why we stand not only for a cease-fire in the region, but also for a complete cessation of hostilities, which requires that heavy equipment and artillery be disengaged." According to the Defense Ministry's official spokesman, the reasons given by the Azerbaijani side for its refusal to pull back its troops are not convincing because, if this plan is implemented, "the Armenian troops will immediately have to leave the district centers of Agdam, Fizuli, and Dzhebrail."

Elchibey Accuses Leadership of Reprisals

LD0403151394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447
GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Ex-President of Azerbaijan Abulfaz Elchibey in an interview with INTERFAX has accused Baku of launching "a renewed campaign of reprisals against the opposition" including the People's Front he leads. He was replaced by current Azeri leader Heydar Aliyev last summer.

Elchibey said tension was running high for two days in a row at his native village of Keleki in Nakhichevan where he had been staying since last year. Armed police units blocked the region sealing off the roads leading to Keleki. Members of Elchibey's entourage say the authorities are planning a reprisal operation against the former president.

For his part, Elchibey said the government in Baku was trying to provoke the People's Front into mass protests. He spoke of the Front headquarters in Baku being ransacked and political censorship tightened in the country. Searches are under way of the Front's local branches and a number of PFA regional leaders were arrested including Asif Guliyev, the chairman of the PFA branch in Nakhichevan.

Elchibey thinks the government is trying hard to divert public attention away from social and economic difficulties. He said Baku's latest military defeats was one other cause of growing discontent.

In his view, the authorities are seeking to deal a blow against democratic forces to forestall any opposition protest before the deployment of Russian troops in Azerbaijan. The Front believes Baku is nurturing plans of inviting Russian forces back into the country.

Despite government attempts, the People's Front will avoid being dragged into any provocation, Elchibey said. And he added that Baku's headstrong action was fraught with unpredictable implications and that the blame would rest with the government if anything happened.

Report on Siege of Keleki Denied

NC0403211794 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Quoting a statement [word indistinct] State Secretary Ali Kerimov made to [word indistinct] yesterday, the Russian Television Network's Vesti program said that Keleki in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR], where former President Abulfaz Elchibey lives, has been besieged by well-known forces and that a threat of attack on that town exists at the present time. How true is that report? NAR Minister of Internal Affairs Ramiz Yusupov has replied to a Baku Radio correspondent's question on the matter as follows:

[Begin Yusupov recording] The situation in the NAR continues to be tense. The citizens have various kinds of arms and other combat equipment in their possession. That has created serious anxiety. However, the police units are cooperating with the other law enforcement organs to take the necessary measures. For example, the search for the illegally held arms was maintained from January to March. Significant work was carried out. The police organs have impounded more than 200 automatic firearms, four [word indistinct] launchers, three machine guns, 138 projectiles, more than 25,000 cartridges, and other combat equipment.

A large quantity of the combat equipment in the possession of the Azerbaijan People's Front branch in the NAR was handed over to the military units in two vehicles as a result of the talks that were held between the NAR Supreme Assembly Committee of Deputies and that front. We shall continue to take the necessary measures.

The Moscow Television Company's newscast has reported that Keleki in Ordubadskiy Rayon has been besieged by the armed forces. Acting with responsibility, I wish to disclose that that report is completely unfounded. Neither Keleki nor any other town in Ordubadskiy Rayon has been besieged by the police and other armed units. It seems that certain political forces have been dissatisfied with the measures taken under the leadership of the Republic's president to strengthen law and order and restore stability in Azerbaijan and the NAR. They provide unfounded

information to various foreign circles in order to worsen the political tension in the country.

I wish to stress that no instruction has been received for the arrest of Abulfaz Elchibey since he moved to Keleki. In view of that, the report that Keleki has been besieged is unfounded. That is a fabrication. The internal forces have taken the necessary measures to improve the situation in the NAR. However, certain malicious leaders have resorted to various ways to create tension. I wish to say that they have disseminated an unfounded report in the media to the effect that Atif Guliyev, former head of the Nakhichevan People's Front has been sent to prison without committing any offense. Guliyev was sent to prison by the NAR procuracy for plotting against the state authority in October 1993. He was sent to prison on the basis of concrete evidence and the accounts of many witnesses against him. The decision on his imprisonment has been conveyed to the internal organs. Atif Guliyev was on the list of wanted persons. He was arrested by the police in March. An investigation has been launched against him.

I wish to stress too that a rally was held in Ordubad on 1 March. Two demands were put forward. The first was related to the collection of the illegal arms from the citizens and the second was related to the [word indistinct] of the leading officials in Ordubadskiy Rayon. Ali Dzhafarov and Mamed Ismailov, employees of the NAR Television Network, made a documentary film on the rally. They were halted by seven armed and masked men at a point near (?Eyrek) as they returned to Nakhichevan. The armed men wished to take the documentary film from them. They allowed Dzhafarov and Ismailov to return to Nakhichevan after they took their film. A criminal investigation has been launched into the incident, which can be described as a serious crime.

Certain forces wish to disrupt political and social stability in the NAR. They are occupied with activities aimed at disrupting the situation. I wish to say that the internal forces and the law enforcement organs will obstruct their activities and take the necessary measures within the framework of the laws against the individuals who are engaged in lawless activities. [end recording]

Popular Front Condemns Attacks

LD0503180294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] The Supreme mejlis, or the highest representative body, of Azerbaijan's Popular Front has held session in Baku. Popular Front spokespeople have told Interfax the mejlis met in semi-legal conditions because the national authorities keep it under incessant attack.

The Popular Front condemned the government's attacks on the opposition and called on the police to refrain from involvement in political games.

The Front's leaders decided to give up plans for large-scale protest actions and suggested that all Front sympathizers stick to democratic methods of political struggle.

In the meantime, the police remain in control of the Front's headquarters in Baku. According to the press service, more searches and police inquiries have been held inside the building.

Spokespeople for the Popular Front have told Interfax that on March 4 the chairman of the Front's auditing commission and an adviser to the Front's chairman were taken into custody.

The first detainee was released after three hours of interrogation, while the second was brutally beaten up and is reported to be laid up with a concussion of the brain.

The press center of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Internal Affairs has rejected that report.

Minister Denies Persecution

LD0503192294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1746 GMT 5 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 5 Mar—The Azerbaijani authorities are not persecuting supporters of Former President Abulfaz Elchibey. This is how Azerbaijani Interior Minister Vagif Novruzov [name and title as received] commented on reports in a number of mass media on arrests of People's Front supporters in the village of Keleki, where the leader of the Front and Former President Elchibey now lives.

Novruzov noted that "measures were being taken to confiscate illegally held weapons from the population." He reported that three mortars, 10 machine-guns, three grenade-launchers, 219 firearms, up to 200 grenades, 138 projectiles for various kinds of weapon, seven radio stations, and seven "Alazan" launchers were confiscated.

The situation in Baku is calm. Only in front of the People's Front headquarters and in adjoining streets have reinforced police units been posted. The actual Front building has been sealed up.

Police Continue Arrests

NC0503194994 Baku TURAN in English 1718 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 5) TURAN—This morning the policemen arrested tens of the members of the PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan] in the park near the headquarter of the Popular Front. Today the arrested will be tried for insubordination to the police and they will be either sentenced to 30 days of imprisonment or will be fined. But the witnesses say that the arrested did not do any illegal activities but just grouped in the park.

As known, the sitting of Majlis of the PFA is due to take place on March 5. Evidently, the authorities arrested the members of the PFA not to let them to conduct the sitting.

The headquarter of the PFA is still under the control of the police. Yesterday, the speaker of Parliament, Rasul Guliyev told First Deputy Chairman of the PFA, Ibragim

Ibragimli "the police will leave the headquarter when it examines the walls of building".

Yesterday the group of deputies of Milli Majlis invited foreign diplomats to Supreme Soviet to inform them about the situation in the country. But Parliament's guard did not allow foreign diplomats to enter the building.

Yesterday the group of representatives of Azerbaijan intelligence called upon the leadership of the country "to stop fighting with the opposition and to consolidate with all political forces for the sake of national interests".

Minister: Police Not Surrounding Village

LD0603101294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0850 GMT 6 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 6 Mar—Information that the village of Keleki in Ordubadskiy [Ordubad] rayon where Abulfaz Elchibey, ex-president of the republic and leader of the People's Front of Azerbaijan [PFA] is now living, is surrounded by police does not correspond to reality, Vagif Novruzov, interior minister of Azerbaijan stated. He also refuted claims made by the media that there have been mass arrests of supporters of the People's Front in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. "The passions around the events in Nakhichevan are being whipped up by destructive elements, primarily from the PFA, who are trying in this way to distract the public's attention from their actions aimed at destabilizing the political situation in the republic," the minister said.

The head of Azerbaijan's Interior Ministry said that "measures to confiscate weapons illegally held by the population" are being carried out in Nakhichevan. He claims that this forced measure was undertaken after the discovery at the end of last week of a whole arsenal at the headquarters of the People's Front of Azerbaijan in central Baku. Vagif Novruzov stated that in the course of the operation in the autonomous republic three mortars, 10 machine-guns, three grenade-launchers, 219 firearms, up to 200 grenades, 138 shells for various types of weapon, seven radios, seven Alazan launchers, up to 26,000 cartridges of various caliber and other ammunition have already been confiscated. According to the police department 147 firearms, two machine-guns, two grenade-launchers, one mortar, eight mortar shells and other ammunition have been found in the possession of members of the Nakhichevan branch of the People's Front of Azerbaijan. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against six individuals.

Meanwhile the situation in Azerbaijan's capital is calm. Only outside the headquarters of the People's Front and in adjacent streets is there an enhanced police presence. The building housing the People's Front of Azerbaijan has itself been sealed.

Trial on Attempt on Aliyev's Life Begins in Baku

NC0505204894 Baku TURAN in English 1659 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 3) TURAN—Turkey's citizen, Hasan Toklu and 4 citizens of Azerbaijan: Aydyn Gasymov, Abil Babayev, Nariman Mamedov and Ali Askerov are accused of making an attempt at President Aliyev's life, last autumn, when he was the Chairman of Parliament.

Yesterday Supreme Court of the republic began the trial at them. It should be stressed that the Chairman of Supreme Court of the republic, Hanlar Hajiyeve holds the trial and the Procurator General, Ali Omarov acts as prosecutor.

Hasan Toklu, Nariman Mamedov and Abil Babayev are accused on articles -15, 177, 94, 220, Aydyn Gasymov and Ali Askerov on 15, 17 and 94 articles of Criminal Code of Azerbaijan. Under these articles they maybe sentenced to 8-15 years of imprisonment.

Turkish Embassy in Azerbaijan told Turan that trial at Turkish citizen, Hasan Toklu, will not exert influence on the relations between two states.

Turk on Trial Speaks

NC0503211994 Baku TURAN in English 1718 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 5) TURAN—"I apologize to the fact that the names of Abulfaz Elchibey and his relatives were mentioned at the trial. I retract my previous evidence, as all the people attending the trial know that the evidence has been planted on me", said Turkish citizen, Hasan oklu at today's court hearing.

As known, the trial concerning the attempt upon Geydar Aliyev's life began two days ago. The accused are four Azeri and one Turkish citizens. Aydyn Gasimov, who is the closest relative of ex-President Abulfaz Elchibey's, is accused of being the initiator of the attempt.

Aliyev, Others Discuss Vital Issues

NC0403220194 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Representatives of the agro-industrial workers from all over the republic met today to discuss measures to combat the deepening economic crisis.

[Begin recording] [correspondent Mermine Elikhanbeyli] Heads and directors of relevant ministries, main administrations, firms, and progressive economic establishments were taking part in a meeting held with the participation of Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev.

It was noted at the meeting that a grave situation presently exists in Azerbaijan's agro-industrial sector due to the fact that the socioeconomic situation prevailing in the republic in recent years has affected every sector of the national economy. This lead to bitter consequences in the form of the disruption of economic ties with the former partners, the disintegration of the social economy system, and the formal nature of the new business documents.

Muzamil Abdullayev, minister of agriculture and food, believes the resolution of many agro-industrial problems can be possible only at the state level. The fall in the production of cotton, grapes, grain, and animal products mostly arises from the low state purchase prices. Compared to 1990, cotton production fell 2.5 times. Of the areas set aside for grain production, 65,000 hectares remain under Armenian occupation. Many of our viticulture establishments are on the verge of bankruptcy. Despite these facts, over the last five months the agricultural sector injected 51 billion Rubles in revenues into the state budget.

Memed Abbasov, first deputy prime minister of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR], speaking on the issue said that NAR's agricultural sector, two-thirds of which is located near borders with Armenia, is experiencing a severe crisis. Agricultural production in rural areas has fallen drastically. The interesting fact is that while the animal population in public farms has decreased, the cattle population in personal holdings has increased by 17 percent and sheep and goat by 16 percent. Despite this, the farmers' relations with the land have undergone substantial changes. This is because the farmers feel that they are not a part of the land. Therefore, the time has come to introduce reforms in agriculture.

This view was repeated by other speakers.

At the end of the meeting President Geydar Aliyev made a speech:

[Aliyev] First of all, we have to distance ourselves from past illusions. In the past, orders used to be issued and then equipment, tractors, combines, fertilizers, and other chemicals used to arrive from the common union fund. If we were a bit late in our work we only used to get a reprimand, and sometimes this equipment was not in the proper condition to be used. Now, all this does not exist. Now we must pay foreign currency to buy fertilizers that are not produced in our Republic.

Some of those speaking here referred to the socioeconomic situation in the Republic. Undoubtedly, I have no intention to speak at length on this issue. However, I want to say a few words in connection with the statements made here.

As I indicated, our Republic is in a grave socioeconomic crisis. Our Republic is waging a war. Because our Army had not been raised to the desired level in recent years and the defense of our lands had not been organized at the desired level, a part of Azerbaijani lands have been occupied. We are now taking the necessary measures to recover the occupied lands and restore Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

Under such conditions, the internal socioeconomic stability and the unity and solidarity of all strata in Azerbaijan are essential as never before. Regrettably, certain groups and forces—which are motivated by personal political ambitions, want to achieve their own personal goals, and are bent on occupying positions of power—succumb to ugly objectives from time to time and want to disrupt internal stability. However, rest assured that we are in

control of the state institutions in all spheres, both in the defense sphere and inside the Republic, and we will continue exercising this control. Our defense forces are able to defend Azerbaijani lands and henceforth will defend them more strongly. I am sure that if the Armenians do not choose the peaceful solution to this problem we will press ahead with our own war.

To achieve all this, I request more productive work from the agricultural workers, rural people, and from all officials responsible for agriculture. In ending this meeting, I call on all of you: I invite you all to productive work, to national unity and solidarity. Now we have one objective: To ensure our Republic's territorial integrity, and to oust the occupationists from the occupied lands. We have one goal: To extricate our republic from this socioeconomic crisis. As the president, I am ready to cooperate with any force for the achievement of these objectives. I invite all of you to join in this cooperation, patriotism, and fulfillment of your citizens' duty. I wish good health for all of you and I hope that a struggle will be waged in the agricultural sector this year. [end recording]

Industrial Production Drops in 1994

NC0403212994 Baku TURAN in English 1743 GMT
4 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 4) TURAN—In January, 1994 the output of industrial products compared with the same period of last year, decreased.

According to official data, the output of electric energy decreased by 6 per cent, output of fuel by 9.8 per cent.

Since early year, the output of engineering products have decreased by 23.1 per cent, of timber products by 52.4 per cent, of building materials by 24 per cent, the output of food industry by 17.5 per cent, of chemical and petrochemical products by 27.9 per cent.

In comparison with January 1993, the output of oil have decreased by 8.4 percent, of natural gas by 9.7 percent. The output of meat products have decreased by 48.6 per cent, of fodder crops by 31.9 per cent, of cotton by 44.7 per cent.

Georgia

Peace Plan 'To Restrict Russia's Opportunities'

PM0703100994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
6 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "Washington Will Offer Shevardnadze Its Peace Plan for Abkhazia. Without Russia"]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze has been faced with the temptation to agree to a new option prepared deep inside the U.S. Department of State for establishing peace in Abkhazia. In Washington it will be suggested to the Georgian president that he agree to UN "blue helmets" being sent in without the participation of Russian troops.

On Monday Bill Clinton is expected to reveal to the guest from Tbilisi a U.S.-style plan for settling the Abkhaz conflict. The essence of this plan is to restrict Russia's opportunities for influencing the situation in the region. Its 2,000-strong contingent is to pull back beyond the Psou River, which forms the Russian-Georgian border. UN forces will take up positions along the Inguri River, forming a security zone between Georgians and Abkhazians. The United States is also promising to increase financial aid to Tbilisi considerably.

If this is so, the situation around Abkhazia is changing radically. Until now the sides involved in the conflict have relied little on the United Nations and put their trust mainly in Russia's good will. With one voice they entreated Boris Yeltsin to hurry up and send in troops—which would have created conditions not only for a ceasefire but also for the return of 300,000 refugees.

Moscow, which recently signed a treaty with Tbilisi, proceeded from the premise that it remains the most real force capable of instilling order in this part of the Caucasus. Yeltsin made military aid for Georgia dependent on progress toward a political settlement.

At the same time it has become obvious that Russia is biding its time, seeking greater tractability from Tbilisi and Sukhumi and waiting for the Security Council to invite it to play the leading part in the UN orchestra. The United Nations is in no hurry either, realizing that Russia itself will not dare to assume the role of sole peacemaker.

A cooling in Russian-U.S. relations has been sensed in recent days. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that in this situation Washington can be expected to take surprise actions aimed at putting Russia in its place.

Ioseliani on Peacekeeping Forces for Abkhazia

LD0703115394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] As you know, Jaba Ioseliani [head of Georgian delegation at Abkhaz-Georgian negotiations] has been in the United States for several days. A few minutes ago, we phoned him in Washington. Mr. Ioseliani said that he has had very important meetings in the UN Security Council, chiefly pertaining to a peaceful settlement of the Abkhazian problem. Asked whether the United Nations will be sending peacekeeping forces to Abkhazia, Ioseliani said:

[Begin Ioseliani recording] I have just been to the Security Council. It is not a simple thing for America and neither is it for others. It must be clear why and for what reasons. It should be decided whether America and other Western countries will participate in this action. It costs 100 million [currency not specified] to carry out this operation. No one wants to spend this amount. Why should I spend this money and send you troops if you fail to manage your own business and the United Nations does not have that money? Deputies, members of parliaments, congressmen are against this. But this time the attitude is a little bit

different and if Shevardnadze's visit influences congressmen and others, especially senators, whose concern this allotment of funds is, then everything will be all right. [end recording]

We regret that the quality was poor due to the telephone line.

Finally, an official document about the UN peacekeeping forces can be received but, according to the United Nations, these forces will comprise Russian servicemen only. Today, at the Security Council, there will be a discussion pertaining to the extension of a peace mandate for the UN observers in Abkhazia. Jaba Ioseliani has been planning to make a speech on recent developments in Gali rayon.

Asked what significance is attached to Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to the United States, Jaba Ioseliani said that Shevardnadze's authority could have a decisive influence on the handling of the issue of sending UN peacekeeping forces to Abkhazia. During these very days, it will possibly be decided whether the United States and the European countries will take an active part in the handling of current processes in the Caucasian region.

Troops Continue Buildup on Abkhazian Border

LD0703095094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0920 GMT 7 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Irina Shchogoleva]

[Text] Sochi March 7 TASS—Georgian troops continue to concentrate along the border with Abkhazia that passes down the Inguri river, a well-informed source told ITAR-TASS.

According to the source, Georgia is relocating terrorist groups from the Gali District and Kodori Gorge, but the situation on the border is relative stable with the exception of sporadic gunning of Abkhaz positions.

Shevardnadze Meets With Havel in Prague

LD0603144194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1304 GMT 6 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Yakovlev]

[Text] Prague, 6 Mar—Peace in the Transcaucasus cannot be attained without Russia's decisive participation, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of Georgia's State Council, stressed here today at a meeting with journalists. En route to the United States, he made a brief stopover in Prague, where he had a meeting with Vaclav Havel, president of the Czech Republic. The Georgian leader pointed at "mutual understanding" in his relations with Russia and with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin.

A Georgian embassy is expected to be opened in Prague in the near future to represent the republic's interests in the Czech Republic and in other Central European countries.

Hold Prague News Conference

LD0603163094 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] A Georgian delegation led by Eduard Shevardnadze heading on an official visit to the United States stopped over in Prague. The Georgian leader met with Vaclav Havel, president of the Czech Republic. Then a news conference was held. Current international political affairs, the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict, and the contribution of international organizations in it were the issues touched upon at the conference.

Vaclav Havel noted at the news conference that Eduard Shevardnadze has played a remarkable role in establishing new international relations in the world. He thanked the Georgian head of state on behalf of the people of Czech Republic.

Eduard Shevardnadze called Vaclav Havel's activities legendary. He expressed hope that future close relations between the Czech Republic and Georgia will fully meet the interests of the peoples of both countries.

The Georgian delegation left Prague for New York with yet another stop on the way, in the capital of Iceland, Reykjavik.

This information has been supplied by Kontakt news agency.

Patsatsia on Talks in Moscow on Gas Supplies

LD0703094594 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0500 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, who held talks with representatives of the Russian government, returned from Moscow yesterday. On his return to Tbilisi, the prime minister said the following.

[Begin Patsatsia recording] This was a working visit. Almost all the issues I discussed with Oleg Soskovets [Russian deputy prime minister] were resolved positively. Thus, a credit of 4.5 billion rubles, previously planned for 1993, has now been officially registered. Another credit of 20 billion rubles will be registered in the near future before the end of March. Boris Yeltsin has issued an instruction that this credit of 20 billion rubles should be registered.

I would like to say a few words about the gas issue. We raised a the question of gas supplies from Russia. This issue is under consideration at present and I believe it will be resolved positively. We will find it more profitable because it will cost us less than that from Turkmenistan. However, it does not mean that we are going to stop receiving gas from there. [end recording]

Ministry Denies Russians Control Reorganization

LD0503174494 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1340 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 5 [date as received]—The Georgian Defense Ministry Press Center supplied the IBERIA news agency with the following statement:

"On 4 March the 'Alioni' program [Georgian TV] broadcast a report made public by the ITAR-TASS news agency on the beginning of the reorganization process in the Georgian Defense Ministry. It was mentioned that the reduction of Georgian Armed Forces would begin soon and certain structures would be abolished, and all this would be carried out under the control of the command of a group of Russian troops in Transcaucasia.

The Georgian Defense Ministry Press Center is authorized to state that the Defense Ministry has long started the process of reorganization and all military activities are controlled by the Georgian Defense Ministry leadership. As for relations with the Russian Armed Forces, all packages of documents pertaining to this issue were signed on 3 February, and the contents of the documents are well-known. The process of settling the relations is still under way. A Georgian delegation, including the Georgian prime minister and the Defense Ministry leadership, will hold talks in Moscow soon. The results of the talks will be known after the delegation returns to Tbilisi.

Premier, CIS Chief Discuss Georgian Army Issues

LD0503104494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1623 GMT 4 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Mar—Colonel-General Viktor Samsonov, chief of general staff to coordinate military cooperation among CIS states, said at a meeting today [4 March] with Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, that the collective security of Commonwealth states is being strengthened, taking into account the specific features of the organizational development of the national army of the Republic of Georgia and the solution of other problems of multilateral military cooperation, the staff press center told ITAR-TASS correspondents.

The staff considers the Russian-Georgian treaty on friendship, neighborliness, and cooperation signed in February in Tbilisi to be an example of Georgia's practical cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth. This document, in particular, reflects the intentions of the sides to adopt measures to implement effectively agreements on the temporary stay of Russian military formations on the territory of Georgia, and also to conclude agreements on lending assistance in setting up Georgian Armed Forces, in fitting them out, and in their acquisition of armaments, military weapons, and technological equipment without the right to hand them over to third countries.

Political Leader Warns Against 'Radicalization'

NC0403220794 Yerevan SNARK in English 1416 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, March 4. (SNARK)—The highest danger faced by Georgia today is radicalization of political forces in the republic, declared at a press-conference today Zurab Zhvania, the general secretary of the most influential party Georgian Civil Union. He spoke against all kinds of "street actions" as forms of political struggle.

Representative of the party, founded by Eduard Shevardnadze's initiative, stated that demonstrations and meetings may ultimately result in creation of absolutely different forces which may attempt to revive old communist principles in the country. Therefore the oppositional parties and the Civil Union have to join their efforts in construction of a free and powerful Georgia, emphasized Zurab Zhvania.

Rallies Against Shevardnadze, CIS Notion

PM0703095994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 6 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Sergey Chernykh: "They Say That...Georgia Is Preparing for a Coup"]

[Text] For the first time in the post-Soviet period there has been a unification of the whole opposition—from the left-wing liberals to the right-wing radicals—in Georgia. The bloc is headed by Georgiy Chanturiya, leader of the National Democratic Party. The opposition is campaigning against head of state Eduard Shevardnadze, the Civic Union organization headed by him, and the parliamentary majority.

The reason for this unification is the ratification by parliament of the decision to join the CIS. Chanturiya and Co. believe that the speaker grossly violated the standing orders and flouted all the laws. A law suit has already been filed with the republic's Supreme Court.

It is worth recalling here that the ratification took place to the accompaniment of whistling, cat calls, choice swear-words, and fisticuffs. The hall of sessions was like the central market when a thief has been caught and above all this uproar was heard the shrill voice of one of the deputies signing the anthem of the Soviet Union. If all these scenes are repeated out on the streets, and the leaders of the opposition movement are perfectly capable of doing that, the situation will get out of control. And the new alliance is in a very determined state of mind.

The situation is being complicated by the fact that on 7 March Shevardnadze is flying to the United States at the invitation of President Clinton. It would be a good idea if he took David Zeikidze, Tbilisi's police chief, along with him. A year ago this conscientious state servant declared: "I get spat on whether I authorize a rally or not. So I shall disperse it!" In most cases he has kept his promise since then. In this connection one is bound to recall that the previous Georgian coup began precisely with the dispersal of a National Democratic Party rally.

The leaders of the opposition parties have held a confidential meeting in Tbilisi. The audience adopted an appeal to the United Nations, the peoples of the world, and the governments of all countries. The appeal notes that the decision on affiliation to the CIS is illegitimate and the vote was held in conditions of terror. The ratification is called a "coup from above." The opposition leaders believe that such an important decision must be adopted only by a nationwide referendum.

Opposition: Law Broken by Joining CIS

LD0403205794 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1600 GMT
4 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 4 [date as received]—According to IBERIA news agency opposition parties adopted a statement that says: "To the United Nations Organization, the peoples and governments of the world!

At its 1 March 1994 session, the Georgian Supreme Council ratified a document on Georgia joining the CIS, signed by Eduard Shevardnadze, the Supreme Council chairman and head of state, by 126 votes to 69 (two abstained), thus making an attempt to legalize the loss of independence by Georgia and Georgia's incorporation into a modernized empire.

This act passed by the Supreme Council contradicts the law, and Georgia's union with Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union is illegal because of the following conditions:

1. The act of the restoration of Georgian state independence, passed unanimously by the legally elected Supreme Council (parliament) of the Republic of Georgia on 9 April 1991, is based on the results of a referendum held in the Republic of Georgia on 31 March 1991, during which 99 percent of the participants voted for the independence of Georgia and in which 90 percent of electors took part. It is illegal to pass any resolution on a complete or partial abolition (limitation) of Georgia's independence other than by means of a referendum.

2. Over half of MPs on the list, yet less than two thirds (there are 222 members in the Georgian Supreme Council), voted for the approval of the 1 March 1994 resolution of the Georgian Supreme Council. Meanwhile, the above-mentioned resolution a) differs from a confirmation of a bilateral or multilateral treaty in its concept pertaining the statute of the Republic of Georgia as a state and, b) requires an amendment in the Republic of Georgia's law "On the state authority" that was voted for and passed by the qualified majority of the Georgian Supreme Council as a law of constitutional importance. Paragraphs Four, Nine, and others of the CIS regulations stipulate that a number of discrete rights of the Supreme Council listed in Paragraph Seven of the Republic of Georgia's law "On the state rule" are transferred to the competence of the CIS. Therefore, only a qualified majority can pass the resolution.

3. According to the Republic of Georgia's laws "On the state rule" and "On the statute of a deputy," certain executive occupations cannot be combined with the statute of a deputy (a list of those has been approved). There are 15 members of this kind in the Georgian Supreme Council at present. All of them consented to Georgia joining the CIS and this was known to other MPs before the vote and was proved by the vote. Despite the requirements of the regulations, these Supreme Council members participated in the voting.

4. A law "On conclusion, ratification, implementation, and denunciation of international treaties" was violated.

According to Paragraph 11 of the law, the Georgian Supreme Council Foreign Affairs Commission carries out the preliminary discussion of an international treaty submitted for ratification and issues an appropriate conclusion.

5. Georgia's joining the CIS contradicts the Republic of Georgia's law "On defense," which recognizes Georgia's active neutrality and nonalliance to any military bloc.

Apart from direct contradictions to the aforementioned law, the contents of the resolution passed by the Supreme Council, and the procedure taken have other political and procedural shortcomings. Namely:

a) The election program of neither Eduard Shevardnadze, the Supreme Council chairman, nor any other member of the Supreme Council mentioned the prospect of Georgia joining the CIS. On the contrary, the election programs of all of them contained promises to defend and strengthen Georgia's independence. Thus, the 1 March 1994 Supreme Council resolution was not authorized by electors.

b) Apart from the regulations, a Georgian translation (therefore nonauthentic) of which was distributed among members of the Supreme Council before the session, regulations on passing resolutions, as well as the rights and duties of the member countries of the CIS are defined by a number of other documents that were not available for the MPs.

c) The discussion and voting in the Georgian Supreme Council on 1 March 1994 was preceded by a year-and-a-half-long process of Georgia's economic destruction and variable destabilization which, in our opinion, was artificial to a large extent and in which, in our opinion, communist and pro-communist high echelons of Georgia's executive authorities participated in order to provoke Georgia's joining a modernized Russian empire.

Because Paragraphs two and Three of the above were read to the chairman and the speaker of the Supreme Council, a demand was made that the parliamentary authority of the above-mentioned 15 MPs [combining executive positions with Supreme Council membership] should be stopped and that voting should be ruled by two-thirds of the Supreme Council, and because these demands were rejected against the law and regulations by the parliamentary majority, we consider that this is a coup d'etat from above.

During the session the police battered representatives of the National Liberation Movement who stood silent holding posters on the sidewalk in front of the Supreme Council building. The police also dispersed refugees from Abkhazia who stood beside them. During the session, Jaba Ioseliani, the former chairman of the "Emergency Committee," said from the rostrum that the opposition had to be jailed. For two months prior to the session a series of terrorist acts causing casualties were carried out in Georgia. Thus, the Supreme Council session, which made a decision on Georgia's joining the CIS was held in a state of terror.

During the discussion of the resolution, the debates were stopped by a decision of the parliamentary majority, and not only were MPs who were on the list of speakers refused a right to speak, but even factions."

The statement was signed by 69 deputies, who did not vote for Georgia becoming a member of the CIS.

16 Opposition Parties Protest

LD0503183694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] The 16 opposition parties protesting Georgia's joining to the CIS had a meeting in the headquarters of the People's Front in Tbilisi.

"The main purpose which unites us is the struggle against Georgia's joining to the CIS. We must avoid arguing on second-rate issues," Leader of the National Democratic Party, Giorgi Chanturiya stressed.

The opposition parties refused to establish a single organization. They decided to carry out their political cooperation through regular consultations which will take place in different parties' headquarters.

The opposition has initiated collection of signatures for the country's independence and against Georgia's joining to the CIS. The opposition parties adopted an appeal to the UN, the world community and the heads of state which says that the Georgian leadership had tried to legalize the loss of independence and the republic's joining to the modernized Russian empire.

Curfew in Western Region Extended to 20 Mar

LD0603163594 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] The chairman of the interim committee of emergency situations in the western Georgian zone has extended until 20 March 1994 State Minister Givi Lominadze's ordered curfew in the towns of Samtredia, Poti, Abasha, Senaki, Martvili, Khoni, Khobi, Lanchkhuti, Ozurgeti, Chikhatauri, Vani, Tslenjikha, Zugdidi, and Chkhorotsku.

Shevardnadze Issues Edict on Petroleum Products

LD0603204894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] An edict on temporary measures to improve the situation in petroleum product supply in Georgia has been signed by Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state. The edict says:

In order to improve a grave situation in the supply of petroleum products to Georgia, to ensure fuel supplies to areas of strategic importance, and to ease budget payments, a tax on petroleum products imported to the Republic of Georgia by legal and physical persons—except the state company Saknavtobprodukti—will be paid temporarily in 1994 in kind and will be fixed at 10 percent of

the total amount of the imported products, replacing a customs duty, an excise, a value-added tax, an environmental tax, and a profit tax.

The products will be sold by the state company Saknavtobprodukti, taking into consideration branch and regional priorities determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia.

Railway, maritime transport, and customs departments of the Republic of Georgia will ensure the delivery of the imported petroleum products to their destination only in accordance with papers issued by the aforementioned company.

The republic's Ministry of the Internal Affairs will render assistance to the concern in receiving, moving, and guarding the petroleum products.

The edict will take effect on 15 March of the current year. The complete text of the edict will be published in the press.

Edict on Commandant's Offices

LD0603171394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] The Georgian head of state's edict on determining lawfulness of creating military commandant's offices in Georgia and on examining their activities.

In order to determine lawfulness of creating commandant's offices in the Republic of Georgia, the chief military prosecutor's office will examine and determine lawfulness of commandant's offices existing in towns and rayons of the Republic of Georgia in one month's time. Suggestions on stopping the activity of commandant's offices that have been established through the violation of requirements of the Georgian Defense Ministry regulations on garrison and guard services will be drafted and presented. The state of implementation of paragraph three of the 22 November 1993 decree by the commander-in-chief of the Republic of Georgia on the organization of garrison services in towns and rayons of the Republic of Georgia will be studied. A report on the results of the work done and examination carried out will be submitted before 1 April 1994.

South Virtually Cut Off From Outside World

LD0403175194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] There is a complete absence of information in Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda Rayons [south Georgia] due to lack of electricity. Information about current processes taking place in the republic reach the population in a biased form. The area is populated by non-Georgians. Not a single tonne of coal, fuel, or firewood has reached the population of the Javakheti region for a year, which is known for a severe climate. Neither are they getting gas. In addition, highways leading to most of the villages have been cut off due to heavy snow.

Estonia**Government Statement Issued on Talks With Russia***LD0403170394 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 4 Mar 93*

[Text] The Government of the Republic of Estonia has issued a statement in connection with the Estonian-Russian talks. The Government expresses regret over the Estonian-Russian talks breaking off due to the Russian side's unconstructive behavior. The Russian side's attempt to back down on the agreed deadline for the troop withdrawal does not allow for the initialling of an already drafted troop withdrawal agreement. Russian insistence on additional conditions, including one on the Estonian Government having to pay the Russian Government \$23 million, is in conflict with the international obligation which Russia has taken upon itself, which is to withdraw the troops from Estonia quickly, in an orderly manner, completely and unconditionally.

The Government statement says that in this situation the Government of the Republic of Estonia protests against Russian attempts to destabilize the situation in the Baltic Sea region. The Government states once again that the Russian troops must be completely withdrawn from the territory of the Republic of Estonia by 31 August 1994 at the latest. The Government appeals to Russia to abandon its unconstructive attitude and continue talks; it proposes to Russia to hold consultations at a high political level. The Government of the Republic of Estonia reaffirms the existence of Estonian goodwill to continue talks in this situation.

Russia Prepared To Withdraw Troops if Treaty Signed*LD0403184694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1709 GMT 4 Mar 94*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Dmitriy Chubarov]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—Russia is prepared to withdraw its troops based in Estonia before August 31, 1994 but only if a treaty on social protection of Russian military pensioners is signed, Vasily Svirin, head of the state Russian delegation to the talks with Estonia, told a news conference today in connection with the completion of the 17th round of the Russo-Estonian negotiations earlier this week.

Estonia, he said, does not implement its statement made at the 14th round of the Russo-Estonian talks as regards the draft agreement on social protection of military pensioners and members of their families. Russia wants all retired ex-Soviet servicemen to be granted permanent resident status which is rejected by Estonia. Besides, the Russian side has not yet received the confirmation that Estonia will allocate financial means for building housing in Russia for servicemen of the Russian troops to be withdrawn.

"Taking into consideration an Estonian side's actual refusal to fulfill the promises earlier given by it, which served the basis for Russia's proposal about August 31, 1994 as a final date of the withdrawal, the Russian side states that its troops pullout will be implemented according to the timetable worked out by Russia," Vasily Svirin stressed.

The problem of territorial claims, he noted, is raised practically at each round of the Russo-Estonian talks and causes certain tension. However, this problem has no direct influence on the talks on the troops withdrawal and the condition of military pensioners.

"We have never linked a troops pullout to any other problems, but at the 17th round of the talks the Estonian side suddenly stated that it invited Russia to The Hague International Court to determine the legality of the established borders. Moscow is guided in this issue, the Russian side replied, by the United Nations Charter which legalized the inviolability of frontiers in Europe, as well as by other international and legal documents to which Estonia also became a party", the representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry emphasized.

Envoy Hopes Talks Will Resume*WS0403211694 Tallinn BNS in English 1915 GMT 4 Mar 94*

[Text] Moscow, Mar 04, BNS - Artur Laast, minister-counsellor at the Estonian Embassy in Moscow, at a press conference today said there was strong hope that the talks between Estonia and Russia will continue despite recent indications of the contrary.

Laast told reporters in Moscow he would rather not try predicting the decision the government in Tallinn is going to make on the issue, but he added there was "a strong feeling that the talks will go on."

The Estonian diplomat quoted an interview by Alexandr Udaltsev, the senior official in charge of relations with the Baltics at the Russian Foreign Ministry, in which Udaltsev said his country may return to the deadline of Aug. 31 for pulling out its troops from Estonia, if Estonia abided by the conditions several times repeated by Russia. Laast underlined that Russia has not finally given up the deadline, but is just stipulating this date as connected with certain conditions.

Laast dismissed as ungrounded the accusations by some Russian diplomats that Estonia had promised to pay 23 million U.S. dollars to build houses for the repatriated Russian military. He said that this money could have been only provided to Estonia by Western countries, which, however, don't want to finance the building of houses for officers in active military service.

The Estonian diplomat further said there had been no backing down by his country on the two other issues which Russia says had prompted the decision to review the deadline. Laast added that the first of these issues—giving up mutual claims for the value of the army property left

behind, and for damages inflicted by the presence of troops, respectively, had been virtually settled and was not even worth to be spoken about any longer.

Neither have there been any changes in Estonia's position on the second issue, that of the presence of retired Russian military in the country. The dispute, he said, exists over principles that are contradicting Estonia's citizenship law.

Western Leaders React

WS0403151594 Tallinn BNS in English 1314 GMT
4 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 04, BNS—A number of Western countries at a CSCE senior officials meeting in Prague on Thursday [3 March] declared their support to Estonia's demand that Russia pulled out its troops from Estonia by Aug. 31.

Support to the demand was issued in the name of the European Union [EU] by Greece, in its capacity as the current presiding member of the EU, as well as by Iceland, Canada, Denmark and Poland, said Toivo Klaar, head of the political department at the Estonian Foreign Ministry.

All speakers at the meeting also said the issue of the troop withdrawal must not be linked to any other topic. They expressed hope that negotiations between Estonia and Russia will go on.

A representative of Poland in his speech said concentration of Russian troops in the Kaliningrad region was causing worries and leading to a destabilization of the situation in the region.

Russia at the meeting repeated its earlier position, speaking about the need to resolve the issues "in complex." The Russian representative also said 90 percent of the troops his country used to have in the Baltics had been pulled out.

The Latvian delegation at the meeting was more optimistic, saying Russia and Latvia were closer than ever to concluding an agreement, a representative at the Estonian Foreign Ministry added.

The head of the ministry's political department said all senior officials at the Prague meeting represented their countries' foreign ministers.

Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Mari-Ann Rikken also announced that the ministry had received a statement by Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl in reaction to the recent statements by Russia. Kohl in the message says that the Baltic Sea is no less an European sea than the Mediterranean, and, therefore, countries situated on the coasts of the Baltic Sea must belong to the EU.

Denmark Protests 'Backing Down'

WS0403151394 Tallinn BNS in English 1025 GMT
4 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 04, BNS—Denmark insists that Russia pulled out its armed force units from Estonia by Aug. 31,

Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen said in a statement on Thursday [3 March].

"We cannot allow this kind of violation of the international legal norms that is brought about by Russia's backing down on its earlier promises," the Danish foreign minister said.

The issue of the Estonian-Russian relations was discussed at a brief meeting between Petersen and Estonian President Lennart Meri in Copenhagen Thursday. Meri made a short stop in the Danish capital on his way to an official visit to Switzerland, a representative at the Estonian Embassy in Copenhagen said.

The Danish foreign minister denounced Russia changing its position on the troop withdrawal deadline. He said his country will fully support Estonia's rightful claims before international organizations on this topic.

Support to Estonia's demand that Russian troops be pulled out from the country by Aug. 31 has been also declared by the Swedish prime and foreign ministers, the Lithuanian Government.

Foreign Minister Meets With Japanese Envoy

LD0403175494 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in
Estonian 1500 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Juri Luik had a meeting with the Japanese ambassador today. Foreign Ministry press representative Mari-Ann Rikken told BNS that the talks focused on Estonian-Russian relations, the Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia, and the situation in Russia.

According to Rikken, the establishing of an Estonian Embassy in Japan was also discussed. Estonia will open an embassy in Japan during the current year, she said. Mari-Ann Rikken added that during the meeting Estonian-Japanese cultural and education-related relations were also discussed.

Estonia's Laar Views Relations With Russia

PM0403105594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in
Russian 4 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent Aleksandr Veretennikov on interview with Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar conducted specially for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Tallinn; date not given: "The Russian Question an Amorphous Thing," Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar Thinks"]

[Text] "Unregulated Estonian-Russian relations and the political instability in Russia have not yet affected Estonia, which will have the highest economic growth in Europe in 1994, which, incidentally, is confirmed by representatives of the IMF," Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar said during a conversation with a RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent. The head of the Estonian cabinet of ministers stressed that the fact that there is no political disagreement between all political forces in his country is a guarantee of his country's economic success. In his opinion, there is no

agreement even within Russia's government. "One part of the government implements reform, while the other spends money. The result is utter chaos," Mart Laar reckons. He voiced the hope that the "Fedorov-Gaydar" reforms will continue in Russia. At the same time he pointed out that [former Russian Finance Minister] Boris Fedorov's ideas are in many respects similar to his own, and the same Western experts advised the group of young reformers in the Russian Government as the Estonian Government.

The Estonian prime minister also believes that it is quite valid to compare Russia with his country as far as economic reform is concerned. "Small Estonia has its own advantages when carrying out these reforms; however, a large country has greater resources and thus greater opportunity for maneuver," Mart Laar asserted.

"Russia's economic sanctions against Estonia enabled us to rapidly orient ourselves to the West, as we had no other option," he said. "After all, for two years now Russia has refused to sign economic cooperation treaties with the republic." In his opinion, all that is reminiscent of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's policy, which is nothing new for Estonia.

"But surely Estonia benefits more from economic contacts than Russia?" I asked.

"Not at all," the Estonian prime minister said. "Nowadays our republic has become totally independent of Russia's economy, with which we have a positive balance of trade, while Russia only accounts for 12 percent of our imports." He also noted that Estonia is gearing its economy to the world market in order to be able to sell its industrial output in Paris or London, say.... And also in Moscow.

"In this respect our aim is integration into Europe's political and military as well as economic structures," Mart Laar said. According to him, Russia is also willing to join these structures, but that will be possible only if it continues its economic reforms. Laar voiced misgivings that events in the East will take a different course, as shown by its leaders' speeches and resolutions and, in particular, their policy toward their so-called near neighbors, excessive influence, etc.

"Moreover, the matter of the Russians' failure to acknowledge the former USSR's occupation of Estonia in 1940—which the rest of the world has already done—remains unresolved," the head of the cabinet of ministers said. "Furthermore, they recognize it within the borders of that time."

"The borders of our state were changed as a result of its occupation in 1945, not even in accordance with the laws of the former Union and without the republic itself making that decision," he believes. According to the premier, Estonia found itself in a situation where its border and its security line [kontrolnaya liniya] were in the same place.

"We are not linking the resolution of the border issue with Russia with other priority problems since we are aware of the political situation prevailing there today," Mart Laar

stressed. "However, we want this question discussed during talks with Moscow, but in the presence of the international public and, in particular, the CSCE."

"Nonetheless, questions of the Russian troop withdrawal from the republic are a top priority for Estonia?"

"Of course," the prime minister replied. "Estonia is even ready to help the Russian military build housing for themselves, there is no problem there." In his view, the whole thing is only being held up by one signature—Russia's signature on the schedule for its troops' withdrawal from Estonia.

The Russians are, regrettably, doing everything they can not to provide this schedule, which is naturally restricting the flow of money from the West for housing for the military," Laar complained. "Those who have housing problems will now have to address the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry."

"But the ministry already has plenty of problems to solve, particularly with regard to the violation of the rights of Estonia's Russian-speaking population."

"That is evidence once again that Russia very often sees the laws of the Baltic countries from a totally different angle," the Estonian prime minister explained. "It is not true that our laws are not very clear. For instance, only our country's citizens will be able to take part in the coming parliamentary elections, but I do not know of a single state where people who are not citizens can take part in elections of this kind. At the same time Estonia is one of the rare countries where all Russian-speaking inhabitants were given that right in the elections to local self-government bodies."

"And here is a positive point: During these elections in Narva and Sillamae, which have a largely Russian-speaking population, the Russians' chauvinistic forces were defeated, which was a kind of protest against the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia and its provocative actions," Mart Laar continued. He claimed that of all the Russians in the northeast who took part in the elections to the Russian State Duma, only those who wanted to become Russian citizens and who had always campaigned against the republic's independence voted for Zhirinovskiy.

"But what is to be done about the 'Russian question' or does it really not exist?"

"The 'Russian question' encompasses people who do not know who they really are," the head of the cabinet of ministers said. "They have no intention of living either in Estonia or in Russia. Of course, most of these people are interested in emigrating to the West, but I do not think that Europe is very interested in them."

"In my view, the main thing for these representatives of 'homo sovieticus' is to take a psychological step toward Estonia, a state whose laws accord with European norms," Mart Laar believes. "Especially since it is virtually impossible to say that they are being discriminated against, otherwise we would not be a member of the Council of

Europe. Admittedly, every 'homo sovieticus' will have to actively do something to survive—it is after all hard to live by Soviet traditions in our country today."

"Nonetheless, Mr. Prime Minister, what is to be done about the 'Russian question'?"

"The 'Russian question' is an amorphous thing...."

Latvia

Sejm Discusses Withdrawal of Russian Troops

LD0403132494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 4 Mar 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Riga March 4 TASS—Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs called for flexible tactics in negotiations with Russia for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia. "A reasonable compromise with Russia not only meets the interests of Latvia but is of importance for Europe as well," he said.

On Thursday the Sejm members discussed the condition set by the Russian side during the discussion on the troop pullout and concerning a strategic facility, the radar at Skrunda.

Russia agrees to withdraw troops by August 31 if the radar remains operational for another five years and two months and if social guarantees for the military pensioners and members of their families are ensured. Otherwise, troops will be withdrawn according to the time-table drawn up by Russia, said Sergey Zotov, leader of the Russian delegation at the negotiations.

Sejm members' opinions over the issue diverged and they decided to examine it once again soon.

Ulmanis Replies to Yeltsin Invitation

LD0403181294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1658 GMT 4 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga, 4 Mar—Guntis Ulmanis, the president of Latvia, has replied to the message received from Boris Yeltsin on 17 February. The reply was passed to Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Rannikh, today.

Ulmanis thanked his Russian colleague for the invitation to meet, and urged him to get involved with the issues that are now being discussed by the delegations from the two countries. He stressed that preparation of draft agreements connected with the withdrawal of Russian troops is nearing completion. If final agreement on the documents is reached at the bilateral talks, they could be signed during a possible summit meeting in Moscow.

The Latvian president noted that the withdrawal of Russian troops will create a new situation in relations between the two countries, one that will be more favorable for cooperation in economic, humanitarian, and other

spheres. Guntis Ulmanis expressed readiness to discuss with Boris Yeltsin various issues and problems mentioned in the Russian head of state's message, which have not been broached by the two delegations.

Provides Details on Treaties

MK0603081094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Mar 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric]

[Text] Latvia President Guntis Ulmanis has passed on, via Russian Ambassador to Latvia Aleksandr Rannikh, a letter of reply to Russian President Boris Yeltsin noting that the preparation of several treaties at the interstate talks between Latvia and Russia has entered the final stage: a "Treaty on the Withdrawal of the Army," a "Treaty on Social Security for Servicemen of the Russian Army, Military Pensioners, and Members of Their Families," as well as a "Treaty on the Temporary Functioning of the Skrunda Radar" could be ready for signing already in the course of the next round of talks scheduled for 14 March. The treaties could be signed during a possible meeting of both presidents in Moscow. Left unresolved are the questions pertaining to a draft agreement on social protection for military pensioners, and the problem of rent for using the radar in Skrunda that Russia is expected to pay.

Some Agreement on Protection of Russian Retirees

LD0503130994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1200 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] During the meeting of expert groups for the Russian-Latvian interstate talks, the delegations managed to agree on several issues in the draft treaty on the social protection of retired Russian military personnel, reported Aivars Vovers, deputy secretary of state for eastern affairs at the Latvian Foreign Ministry, at the end of the talks. He added that next week a scheduled meeting of experts is due in Moscow, where the experts in the two delegations will continue to deal with the other draft treaties included in the package of documents on the agreement for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia.

The leader of the Russian delegation, Sergey Zotov, was also positive in his view of the result of the experts' meeting. He agreed with President Guntis Ulmanis that the Latvian-Russian talks on the withdrawal of troops are approaching an end and expressed the hope that in the next stage of the talks, from 14 to 16 March, it will be possible to settle all outstanding questions.

Christopher Remarks Elicit 'Bewilderment'

WS0703121494 Tallinn BNS in English 1659 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 05, BNS - Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs at a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Ints Silins on Friday [4 March] expressed his bewilderment over recent remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher about Latvia depriving its Russian-speaking residents of the citizenship and voting rights.

Christopher at a meeting of the U.S. Senate's subcommittee on March 2 had said that according to the legislation adopted in Latvia, Russians cannot become citizens of the country and have no right to vote.

The U.S. Ambassador in his explanation said that Christopher apparently had not been precise enough, as it was clear that many ethnic Russians are Latvian citizens and have the right to vote in elections.

The Latvian foreign minister also expressed worries about Christopher's remarks that Russia had the right to stimulate Latvians to extend the citizen's status to a wider circle of residents and grant the voting right also to the Russians living in the country.

The ambassador said that it was only the ethnic Russians living in Latvia who were referred to in Christopher's statement. The remarks also had indicated only legal and democratic methods of action by the Russians toward achieving a settlement of the citizenship issue, only attempts to convince the Latvians that the interests of ethnic Russians should be taken into account.

Silins in his concluding remarks pointed out that there was no change in the United States position in principle toward Latvia, and that this was also in evidence during recent visits by Latvian delegations to the United States, as well as in permanent support to Latvia by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The ambassador at the conversation also asked about the process of the Latvian-Russian talks.

He said the U.S. ambassadors to Central and Eastern Europe were scheduled to meet in Warsaw soon.

Delegation Not To Discuss Explosion Near Skrunda

*WS0403194494 Tallinn BNS in English 1646 GMT
4 Mar 94*

[Text] Riga, Mar 04, BNS—Russian delegation does not plan to discuss with Latvian experts issues related to the explosion near Skrunda radar station at experts' meeting in Riga, Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation told BNS right after the arrival in Riga.

Zotov noted that Latvian authorities have started the investigation of the incident. Zotov expressed hope that the investigation would be finished successfully.

Latvian side also does not plan to specially discuss the explosion near Skrunda, Aigars Vovers, official of the Latvian delegation told BNS.

Zotov informed that during the meeting in Riga experts plan to harmonize all disputable issues included in the package of agreements on Russian army withdrawal.

The package of documents includes agreements on social guarantees for Russian military pensioners, further functioning and dismantling of Skrunda radar station, social guarantees for Russian militaries and a general agreement on Russian army withdrawal.

The delegations have not yet harmonized the position of both sides on the first two above mentioned agreements.

Zotov said he hoped that talks between Latvian and Russian experts will be successful.

Party Protests Planned Agreement

WS0403151094 Riga DIENA in Latvian 24 Feb 94 p 8

[Article by Sanita Upleja: "Democratic Party Against the Radar Station Operation"]

[Text] Riga, 23 Feb—The board of the Democratic Party has adopted a statement asking the state's president and the Saeima [parliament] to reject the agreement which foresees the Skrunda radar station maintaining the status of a Russian military base. The Democratic Party is of the opinion that the agreement with Russia should foresee the dismantling of the Skrunda radar station and its removal from Latvian territory.

The statement also says that it could be acceptable to permit coordination of the schedule for dismantling and removing the Skrunda radar station with plans to build a new station, which is being supervised by international observers. This would then be a guarantee for the fulfillment of the terms of the agreement.

Foundation Created To Study Impact

*WS0403151694 Tallinn BNS in English 1314 GMT
4 Mar 94*

[Text] Riga, Mar 04, BNS—The representatives of environmental protection committee at Latvian Environmental and Regional Development Ministry together with biologists and environment protection specialists decided Thursday [3 March] to form a foundation for the research of Skrunda radar station's influence upon environment and human health.

The foundation will be formed from the money resources contributed by the state, municipalities and different organizations. The foundation plans to start its activities in the nearest future and invite foreign scientists to participate in the foundation's work.

The initiators of the foundation plan to organize an international scientists' conference in June to discuss matters related to Skrunda radar station.

Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis took part at the foundation's opening conference and promised to participate in foundation's work.

National Forces Plan Referendum

*WS0403171494 Riga DIENA in Latvian 23 Feb 94
pp 1, 8*

[Article by Janis Kulmanis: "National Forces Might Call a Referendum on Skrunda"]

[Text] Riga, 22 Feb—Several representatives of the Union of National Forces [NSA] stated at a press conference

today that there is a possibility that a popular referendum on the question of the Skrunda radar station may be organized.

As DIENA has already reported, the NSA has adopted a statement protesting against the Latvian Government's agreement with Russia to keep the Skrunda radar station in operation for another four years, with an additional 18 months for its dismantling. Quite a number of representatives of the organizations included in the NSA expressed the view that Skrunda is similar to other bases which Russia has promised to vacate by 31 August of this year.

Baiba Petersone, representative of the Movement for Latvia's National Independence [LNNK] said that although Latvia has a democratically elected parliament and the national situation is more favorable than it was in 1939, the interstate negotiations are being carried on in secret, with the people and even the Saeima [parliament] not being informed. Petersone said the national forces will maintain their rights for means of direct democratic action, by initiating the referendum and using other means of nonviolent resistance.

Aigars Jirgens, a representative of the Fatherland and Freedom organization, has criticized the fact that the Cabinet of Ministers was not given the right to authorize the delegation to talks with Russia and give consent for the continued operation of the Skrunda radar station. The Latvian Government can not count on support from the people, he said. He said also that he has faith in Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis, who has promised not to sign an agreement allowing for the continued operation of the Skrunda radar station.

Uldis Augstkalns, leader of the Latvian People's Front, expressed the belief that for Russia, the Skrunda stations is not so much a matter of security than of policy, and that by the agreement, which is being prepared by the two state delegations, the Latvian Government is accepting Russia's strategic interests in Latvia.

U. Augstkalns stated that to have a bad agreement is better than to have none at all. He also spoke in favor of a popular referendum on this question, because this is a matter of national survival.

The representative of the Association of Latvian National Soldiers was indignant: We have not learned from the experience of our history, and this applies to the current policy of the Latvian Government.

DIENA has already reported, the Club of Environment Protection has printed 10,000 postcards to send to the Saeima demanding the immediate dismantlement of the Skrunda station and withdrawal of Russian soldiers. All in all, 4,000 cards will be disseminated by LNNK.

In reply to a question from DIENA if there is a possibility to succeed in concluding such an agreement with Russia, Ilgonis Klavins, representative of Christian Democrats, expressed a skeptical view regarding the very sense of a bilateral agreement. In his opinion, it should be signed on the international level, with the participation of countries

which have signed the Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam treaties, thus creating the present order in the post-war period.

DIENA was interested in learning if any of the representatives of the national forces have visited the Skrunda base, but we received no direct answer to this question.

Some time ago, while visiting Ludza, President Guntis Ulmanis also expressed a view supporting the idea of a referendum on the question of the Skrunda radar base. However, Presidential Press Assistant Anta Busa could not confirm to DIENA if the president is of the same opinion now.

In accordance with Article 73 of the Constitution of the Latvian Republic, agreements with other states are not to be put to a popular vote. Minister of Justice Egils Levits confirmed to DIENA that the question of Skrunda cannot be resolved by a referendum.

Baltic Ministers Meet in Riga for Talks

LD0403204894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Baltic states have met in the Latvian capital, Riga, to discuss joint foreign policies.

During their Friday meeting they talked about the Baltic states' relations with Russia and the Nordic countries. The discussion also covered participation in the NATO Partnership For Peace program and the European Stability Pact.

The foreign officers of the three states coordinated their future meeting with their German counterpart, Klaus Kinkel.

The agenda of the meeting also included discussions on the establishment of the Baltic states Council of Ministers and the opening of an information bureau in Moscow.

The foreign ministers of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia spoke out for the adoption of jointly coordinated laws and for a united stand in regulating their relations with other countries.

Lithuania

Service Blamed in Failure To Detain Russian

MK0503124094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 5

[Unattributed report based on BNS (expansion unknown) materials under the "Inquiry" rubric: "A Traitor Has Sneaked Into the Lithuanian Security Service. Prosecutor's Office Promises To Expose Him"]

[Text] The Lithuanian Prosecutor's Office plans to conduct "a thorough investigation" to find out who was responsible for the failure of the operation to detain Vitaliy Yegorov, former Soviet serviceman, who was charged with anti-state activity in Klaipeda during the August 1991 coup attempt. At the time, Colonel Yegorov was chief of

the military-political department of the USSR Coast Guard Division deployed in the city. The Lithuanian Prosecutor's Office has evidence proving that it was at his initiative that the Soviet military in Klaipeda announced their assumption of authority and demanded that State of Emergency Committee edicts be adhered to during the August coup plot. This is why Yegorov has long been wanted and a warrant to arrest him has been issued.

It was planned to detain the suspect last Friday in his apartment in Klaipeda, where his wife and children live, but to all appearances he was warned in advance about the upcoming action and fled.

"This is an outright sellout by a staffer of the National Security Service," Kiastutis Biatingis, chief prosecutor from the department for the investigation of state crimes, said in an interview for the RESPUBLIKA newspaper. "It is possible that Yegorov was detained on Friday, but he may have been released later. He may also have been warned in advance about the upcoming operation. To all appearances, someone did that deliberately."

According to Biatingis, the Lithuanian National Security Service was the sole agency tasked with carrying out the operation to detain Vitaliy Yegorov. He said that he would officially demand that security service staffers who failed to perform their duties be discharged.

A shadow of suspicion also falls on National Security Service chief Jurgis Jurgialis himself. Lithuanian General Prosecutor Arturas Paulauskas said that in the last few days before the operation, Jurgialis had called him a number of times and argued insistently that the former Soviet serviceman should not be detained because this action would look politically dubious. As a result, Mr. Jurgialis has been missing at his work place since 28 February. According to his secretary, he has the flu.

Brazauskas Assesses Iliescu's Upcoming Visit

AU0603172294 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] On 7 March 1994, Romania's President Ion Iliescu will begin an official two-day visit to Lithuania. Prior to this visit, our radio station had an interview with Lithuania's President Algirdas Brazauskas, who, from the very beginning, expressed his belief that the relations between his country and Romania must be more dynamic.

Mr. Brazauskas viewed the visit of the head of the Romanian state to Vilnius as a good opportunity to get first-hand information about the situation in the two countries and to exchange opinions about their efforts aimed at European integration, in the European structures of collective security.

The Lithuanian president reasserted that our countries were the first ones that signed the Partnership for Peace accord in Brussels at the end of January.

The basic political treaty between Lithuania and Romania that will be signed in Vilnius will elevate the bilateral relations to a higher level, Mr. Brazauskas mentioned and

added that so far, no broad cooperation plans have been achieved, but such intentions might be favored by the signing of the treaty.

In this respect, the Lithuanian president mentioned the interest of his country in building a north-south highway, which will be called Via-Baltica and will cross Romania.

Our country that is neighboring the Black Sea and Lithuania neighboring the Baltic Sea also have mutual interests in making appropriate use of harbors and ensuring maritime access from both countries to those harbors.

Such issues will be discussed during the meeting of the two heads of state as well as during discussions that will be held between the Romanian delegation and Lithuanian experts, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said in the interview he granted to Bucharest Radio station.

Polish Embassy Issues Protest to Ministry

LD0403210894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The Polish Embassy in Lithuania has sent a note of protest to the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry regarding the statements made by the chairman of the Parliamentary Regional Problems Commission, Romualdas Ozolas.

Commenting on the recently-reached breakthrough in Lithuanian-Polish talks over the good neighborhood treaty MP Romualdas Ozolas had stated in the LIETUVOS RYTAS daily that—quote—Poland will be glad because of its own freewill Lithuania will apparently accept a large package of Polish claims to Lithuanian sovereignty in its south-east and southern territory—unquote.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Gabon

LD0303190394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] A joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Gabon was signed at the Lithuanian Embassy in Moscow today.

Diplomatic relations have been established on the level of non-residing ambassadors. This is 89th state Lithuania has established diplomatic relations.

Security Committee Head Denies Need for Fighters

WS0703082494 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 22 Feb 94 No. 35 p 2

[Unattributed report: "How Much and What Type of Army Does Lithuania Need?"]

[Text] Yesterday, the State Defense Council held its meeting chaired by the president. The meeting discussed the possibilities of producing military equipment in Lithuania. A decision was adopted to coordinate all issues

with Latvia and Estonia, and to set up a special working group to analyze the possibilities of its own production and assess its economic basis.

As V. Petkevicius, chairman of the Seimas [parliament] National Security Committee, reported to RESPUBLIKA, alongside these problems, the meeting also dealt with technical matters in deploying the Army and the issue of control over the airspace. RESPUBLIKA found out that the problem of the establishment of a peacekeeping battalion was postponed for another meeting which will, probably, be held on 7-14 March. According to V. Petkevicius, the "Partnership for Peace" agreement does not oblige a single country to form peacekeeping battalions or corps. Preliminary estimations show that the establishment of such a battalion or a corps would require about \$30 and \$10-12 million, respectively. The Defense Council also had to consider the manner in which European standards must be applied to the Lithuanian Army. In V. Petkevicius' opinion, first of well, Lithuania should decide how much and what type of Army it needs. The military could claim 5 percent of the national budget at best. Unfortunately, the purchase of fighters will have to be abandoned, to say nothing of luxury cars for the National Defense Ministry. According to V. Petkevicius, fighters in Lithuania are as necessary as skis in Africa.

Speaking about the problems at the National Defense Ministry, the chairman of the Seimas National Security Committee noted that measures would be applied to prevent the temptation of dealing in arms—a draft law regulating the purchase of arms for Lithuanian defense structures is being prepared. The draft law does not project that "arms will be bought by the Arms Fund alone, and that ministries will be only contractors and experts in arms quality." Currently, the Prosecutor General's Office is investigating 150 cases concerning disorder at the National Defense Ministry.

Second Ignalina Reactor Expected Back on Line

WS0403210894 Tallinn BNS in English 1915 GMT
4 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 04, BNS—The second reactor of the Ignalina nuclear power plant, which was shut down for

minor repairs Feb. 25, will be turned on Friday night and is expected to reach its peak 1,300-megawatt output by Monday [7 March].

The reactor was shut down after detecting radioactive steam leaking from an air-tight compartment.

Experts established that the steam leaked through some worn-out parts of a control valve.

Plant officials said the leak was considerably smaller than permitted by reactor operation rules. The incident did not affect the radiation background inside and outside the plant, officials said.

Ignalina's leadership said the first reactor will be shut down April 4 for maintenance repairs. The reactor might be turned off several days earlier or later, depending on the situation in the Lithuanian energy system.

'Unequal Market Conditions' Favor State-Run Radio, TV

WS0403151794 Tallinn BNS in English 1314 GMT
4 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 04, BNS—The normative acts that are in force in Lithuania create unequal market conditions for private and state-run radio and TV stations, the State Prices and Competition Service said Thursday [3 March].

According to the service's preliminary conclusions, state-run stations are given priority in using transmitters and rebroadcasting lines, they are subsidized from the state budget, while private stations can rent equipment only by way of contest and can earn money only by selling commercial time.

Besides, state TV and radio charges considerably less for commercial time and thus limits the ability of private stations to compete on the market.

The competition service intends to submit its final conclusions to the parliament and the government when additional information about the situation on the TV and radio market is obtained. Supposedly, state TV and radio will have to reduce its commercial time, while the government will be recommended to take into account the income for commercials when allocating subsidies to state-run stations.